

Class Start and Door Closing: To ensure your child's safety, encourage punctuality, minimize distractions and maximize formation time, the doors of the school will close at the time classes begin: 4:45pm for the Saturday session and 11:15am for the Sunday session.

Drop-Off and Sign-Out: Parents must drop-off children in the classroom and sign them in and out, on time.

Attendance: Only 3 excused absences are allowed. After 3 absences, you will need to speak to the director about continuity in the program, especially for those in sacramental prep. It is expected that you touch base with the catechist about missed material and how to catch up at home.

Communication: Communication about the program will be made in several ways: bulletin announcements, text and email messages, notes given at the end of class or sent home with children.

Discipline:

- * No electronic devices are permitted to be used during class. They may be confiscated and returned to parents.
- * Intentionally damaging or taking other's property, especially St. Ambrose School's, will result in disciplinary measures.
- * Respect for others, especially for catechists and volunteers is expected.
- * Cursing, verbal and physical fights will result in disciplinary measures.

Saint Ambrose Parish

3107 63rd Avenue, Cheverly, MD 20785



Catechesis &

Sacramental Preparation

For children in grades 1 through 6

Program Handbook 2019-2020

Registration Deadline: September 8, 2019

Rev. Charles Cortinovis

Pastor

Alex Hernández

Director Of Religious Education

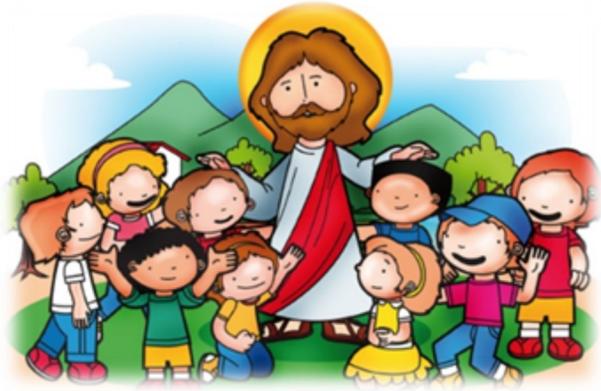
Email: ambrosedre@gmail.com

Sulma Ocón

Parish Secretary

Tel. 301-773-9300

Email: ambroserectory@gmail.com



CATECHESIS AND SACRAMENTAL PREP

The aim of catechesis is to enter deeply into the Good News of Christ to educate the faith & become missionary disciples following Jesus, imitating his example and giving witness.

To that end, the program presents a synthesis of the faith and offers various formational experiences. It is recommended that children receive catechetical formation starting from an early age and that they continue receiving it even after celebrating their sacraments, especially First Communion.

It is also just as important for parents to actively participate in their child's formation. Our task is to support you as your child's primary formators in the faith.

At St. Ambrose, we offer catechesis classes for all children in kindergarten through 6th grade.

Sacramental preparation refers to immediate preparation for the reception of the sacraments.

In this handbook, you will find the information about the different programs offered.

Calendar: Parents are expected to be attentive to the program calendar that will be distributed before the year begins.

Times:

Saturdays 4:45pm to 6:15pm - Classes in Spanish/Bilingual

Sundays 11:15am to 12:15pm - Classes in English

Program Location: St. Ambrose School - 6310 Jason Street

Class Assignments: Children are assigned according to their school grade. First year students are assigned to regular grade classes and second year students to "sacraments" classes.

Evaluations: Children will be evaluated in different forms to ensure learning, especially during sacramental years.

Mass Attendance: Mass is one of the most important aspects of being Catholic and it is expected that children attend Mass regularly with their families wherever they may be any given Sunday for their own spiritual nourishment.

Volunteers: Every year we need volunteers for the different areas of the program: hall monitors, office help, assistants, and catechists. If you would like to volunteer, please let the director know.

Curriculum: We use the *Finding God* series for catechesis and *God's Gift* for sacramental preparation from Loyola Press.

Cancellations Due to Weather: We follow the Prince George's County Public School's Policy for Inclement weather. A text and email message will also be sent indicating whether there will be classes or not.

Beginning Dates

Saturday, September 14 - 4:45pm - School Gym

Sunday, September 15 - 11:15am - School Gym

All parents must attend together with their children.

General Expectations

Children: All children in the catechesis program or sacramental preparation must meet all requirements in terms of content, attendance to weekly classes, retreats, meetings and events proper of each stage of preparation. Participation is essential to ensure learning and the deepening of faith.

Parents:

- * Parents with children in the catechesis program or sacramental preparation must also meet all program expectations and attend meetings, formation sessions and events proper of each stage of preparation.
- * Formation Sessions: A child's faith formation should take place, primarily, at home and this program extends the tools to help you in such task encouraging collaboration between the parents, the pastor and the formation team. With this in mind, parents must attend monthly formation sessions the program will provide. We will also offer different types of formation during the year in which you can choose to participate.

CHILDREN'S SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION



CHILDREN'S CATECHUMENATE (RCIA)

For unbaptized children over the age of 7

Children over the age of 7 who haven't yet been baptized at the time of registration will be assigned to RCIA. The church recognizes in these children the capacity to reason and be formed for Christian Initiation.

RCIA preparation lasts for 2 (consecutive) years and at the end children will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion, provided they've met program expectations. In their first year of preparation, they will receive catechetical content based on their school grade. In their second year, they will receive immediate preparation for the sacraments. Sacraments will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil.

If children are still in -6, parents are expected to continue to bring them to catechesis.

See the general information section in this handbook for program expectations and requirements.



FIRST RECONCILIATION (CONFESION) & COMMUNION

For baptized children

Preparation for the sacraments lasts 2 (consecutive) years starting in first grade. If your child begins the program in second grade or above, they must still complete 2 (consecutive) years of preparation.

In their first year of preparation, they will receive catechetical content based on their school grade. In their second year, they will receive immediate preparation for the sacraments.

Children will do their First Reconciliation in the spring and First Communion the first weekend in May, provided they've met program expectations

If children are still in K-6, parents are expected to continue to bring them to catechesis.

See the general information section in this handbook for program expectations and requirements.

CONFIRMATION

Please see confirmation manual for confirmation information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Handbook: It is expected that you read this handbook about the program, its requirements and expectations. You will sign the registration form indicating you've read it.

Contact: Parish Office: 301-773-9300
Director's Email: ambrosedre@gmail.com

Registrations: You may register in the Parish Office (behind the church) Monday through Thursday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and after Mass on Sundays at the Ambrose to You desk. Registration deadline is September 8, 2019.

Documents: to submit at the time of registration - no registrations will be accepted without the following:

- * Registration Form
- * Parish Registration Form (if not yet a member)
- * Baptized: copy of baptism certificate
- * Unbaptized: copy of birth certificate
- * Letter from director or pastor if child already completed one year of preparation at another parish (2018-2019).

Registration Fees: Grades I through 6

\$75 x 1 child \$100 x 2 children \$150 x 3 or more
\$25 extra for children in their second year of sacramental prep

Full balance must be paid at the time of registration. No one will be excluded from the program for inability to pay. If you are experiencing difficulties that may keep you from paying the fee, please let us know so you may receive a partial or full discount.