

Kaukauna Catholic Parishes



Discipleship Family Handbook 2023-2024



It is by loving, and not by being loved, that one can come nearest to the soul of another

~George Mac Donald

Philosophy of Holy Cross & St. Katharine Drexel Parishes Discipleship

Kaukauna Catholic Parishes(KCP) are a Catholic faith community comprised of Holy Cross and St. Katharine Drexel Parishes and are committed to Christ's mission by providing a catechetical program which offers opportunities to embrace the Gospel message.

The Discipleship Team offers a balanced curriculum, presenting essential truth in a manner appropriate to the abilities of the individual. It offers opportunities for children to deepen their Catholic faith and identity through initiation rites, instruction and formation of conscience. (Adapted from NCD #5 and #229) It is intended to make faith become a living, conscious and active faith through the light of instruction. (NCD #14) In sharing and extending the Gospel message Kaukauna Catholic Youth Ministry (KCYM) offers experiences that are manifested in service to others.

Parental involvement in the catechetical program is essential. (NCD #229) The parish recognizes parents as the primary educators of their children and offers programs of assistance in developing personalities and consciences that are consistent with Catholic principles. The parish catechists and core team members are faith-filled individuals

dedicated to assisting parents through classroom instruction, retreats, and service opportunities.

SACRAMENTS

The sacraments, entrusted to the Church, are actions of Christ, from whom they receive their power. It is Christ who baptizes, Christ who offers Himself in the sacrifice of the Mass and Christ who forgives sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation. (NCD #97) Kaukauna Catholic Parishes, as communities of faith, strive to follow Christ's example and live by His teachings. The parishes celebrate His continued presence among us at special moments in the life of their community members and express the Church's faith and interaction with Christ. (NCD #114) Because the sacraments provide opportunities to build up the Body of Christ and give worship to God, Christians are called to turn to them often for nourishment. (NCD #97)

General Guidelines

- 1) Prior to the sacrament, students must attend two full years of Discipleship instruction.
- 2) Parents are expected to participate in programs and activities in the preparation for the celebration of the sacraments.
- 3) To receive sacraments, a child must meet, fulfill and accomplish the diocesan and parish requirements as outlined in sacramental programs.

EUCHARIST

Parents have a right and duty to be intimately involved in preparing their children for First Eucharist since catechesis aims to help parents grow in understanding and appreciation of Eucharist and to participate readily in catechizing their children. (NCD #122)

RECONCILIATION

Discipleship for children must always respect the natural disposition, ability, age and circumstances of the individual.

Discipleship seeks:

- 1) To make clear the relationship of the sacrament to the child's life.
- 2) To help the child recognize moral good and evil, repent for wrong doings and turn to Christ and His Church for forgiveness.
- 3) To encourage the child to see that, in this sacrament, faith is expressed by being forgiven and forgiving.

- 4) To encourage the child to approach the sacrament freely and regularly.
(NCD #126)

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC):

1286 In the Old Testament the prophets announced the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the hoped-for Messiah for his saving mission. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at His baptism by John was the sign that this was He who was to come, the Messiah, the Son of God. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit; His whole life and His whole mission are carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit whom the Father gives Him “without measure.”

1287 This fullness of the Spirit was not to remain uniquely the Messiah’s, but was to be communicated to *the whole messianic people*. On several occasions Christ promised this outpouring of the Spirit, a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday and then more strikingly on Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit the apostles began to proclaim “the mighty works of God,” and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be the sign of the messianic age. Those who believed in the apostolic preaching and were baptized received the gift of the Holy Spirit in their turn.

1288 From that time on the apostles, in fulfillment of Christ’s will, imparted to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands the gift of the Spirit that completes the grace of Baptism. For this reason in the Letter to the Hebrews the doctrine concerning Baptism and the laying on of hands is listed among the first elements of Christian instruction. The imposition of hands is rightly recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the sacrament of Confirmation, which in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church.

The preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation begins in the fall of 11th grade and culminates in the celebration of the sacrament in the fall of 12th grade.

The Confirmation Ministry consists of the youth minister, or other core team member, meeting with each candidate individually; continued formation and education; a retreat experience; and Reconciliation. Each candidate will choose a sponsor to accompany them in this preparation.

Attendance at all sessions is expected. We understand that because of illness or other family commitments an absence may occur. We will address these situations as they arise.

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDELINES

Attendance

- If your child is unable to attend class, please contact our office at 920-766-5997.
- Students are required to meet Diocesan guidelines
- A written note from a parent is required for early dismissal from class and must be presented to the catechist or group leader

Discipline

- Respect for catechists, students and parish property is required
- If a child consistently disrupts the learning process, parents will be contacted. If no improvement is made your child may be dismissed from the program.

Preparedness for Class

- Each student in grades 1-5 must have their textbook for each class session

Parent Involvement

- Parent(s)/guardian should attend all meetings in preparation for their child's reception of a Sacrament.
- Assist your child with at home preparation for receiving the sacrament.
- Assist your child with At Home Catechesis (3 times per year)
- Parent(s)/guardian and family members are invited to attend all liturgies and class sessions throughout the year.

Drug & Alcohol use

The following guideline is established: any student found to have used/abused alcohol or a controlled substance, or if they have any such materials in their possession, shall be referred to their parent(s)/guardian.

Injuries

If your child receives a minor injury, it will be treated as necessary. If the injury is more serious, every effort will be made to contact the parent(s)/guardian.

Dress Code Policy

It is the policy of the Diocese of Green Bay that all students, staff, and volunteers must follow the dress code expectations of their biological sex while on premise

for religious education, Confirmation preparation, or youth ministry and while representing the parish or program at outside functions.

Enter and Exit of Building

GRADE 1-5 – Enter through the parish office parking lot door #1 and gather in church for opening prayer.

GRADE 6-10 – Enter through the door located at 120 W 8th St.

GRADE 11–Begin with 10:30 AM Mass at St. Katharine Drexel-St. Mary site

Inclement weather

If and when the Kaukauna public schools are canceled due to inclement weather classes are canceled.

Parents will be notified via Flocknote of class changes.

CURRICULUM

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd(CGS)

Students in grades 3K- 5 grade have the opportunity to participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) in the Roman Catholic tradition as part of their religious formation at Kaukauna Catholic Parishes-Holy Cross & St Katharine Drexel.

In CGS, students explore Sacred Scripture and Liturgy in an approach guided by Montessori principles. During the sessions in a prepared environment the youth will be in The Atrium, in our elementary area. It is a sacred place where students work with materials, enjoy time with God, listen to the Word, respond to God's abundant love, and pray.

Grades 1-5 Our Sunday Visitor (OSV)

Jesus Christ is at the Center Alive in Christ is intentional in its focus on the life, mission and saving work of Jesus Christ. This lays the foundation for a lifelong relationship with Jesus, who "...alone can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity"(CCC 426).

Building Knowledge of, and Reverence for, Sacred Scripture Sacred Scripture from both the Old and New Testament is presented in ways that encourage students to learn about the people and stories of the Bible and listen to the voice of God.

Comprehensive Presentation of Catholic Teaching Alive in Christ provides a comprehensive and systematic presentation of the Catholic faith. Key themes of

Catholic teaching are repeated each year through a grade-level lens, building on the child's knowledge of the faith at each developmental stage.

Putting Faith into Practice Activities and questions throughout each lesson prompt children to relate knowledge of our faith with their life experience so they can apply the many ways we worship, live, pray, and serve together as Catholics.

Complete and Purposeful Approach to Prayer and Worship At every grade level, Alive in Christ intentionally incorporates the five basic forms of prayer and provides complete lessons on Church feasts and seasons.

Grades 6-8

Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program. It provides a safe, fun place for youth to find a solid Catholic community, to get answers to their questions about faith, and, most importantly, to experience Jesus in a profound and personal way. The resources present Catholic teaching in a way that young people can understand.

Grades 9-12

Life Teen is a movement within the Catholic Church. Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. You may learn more about Lifeteen by visiting Lifeteen.com.

Confirmation Prep

Confirmation Prep consists of monthly sessions, Mass attendance, sponsor involvement, service project(s) and retreat. Confirmation will be scheduled for Fall of 2024. Date to be TBD

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or wish to become a member of the Catholic faith, please contact Brittany Masak (920) 766-5997.

Breakfast Club

Please contact Kurt Heid with questions (920) 243-3059. Breakfast club is held Friday morning from 6:45 am until school starts. Dates for the 2023-2024 school year TBD