

St. Cecilia Faith Formation Programs

The mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is to build a fervent community of intentional and dedicated missionary disciples of the Risen Lord and steadfast stewards of God's creation who seek to become saints.

To further this mission, the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is committed to implementing the:

Four Pillars of Discipleship and Stewardship

- **HOSPITALITY** – invite people proactively to join us in prayer, especially Sunday Mass.
- **PRAYER** - attend mass each weekend and on the Holy Days of Obligation.
- **FORMATION** - attend youth and adult faith formation classes.
- **SERVICE** – serve each other, especially those in need, by practicing charity and justice.

Formation Programs

The faithful of all ages are urged throughout their lives to study the Bible in light of the Catholic faith, to learn the teachings of the Catholic faith through ongoing formation and education, and foster those means which the Church uses to make the faith known and fervently practiced, e.g., Catholic media, lay retreats for men and women, confession of sins in the Sacrament of Penance, and frequent visits to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, whether exposed for adoration or reserved in the tabernacle.

Religious education is a personal obligation that does not end with the reception of the sacraments but continues throughout adulthood. Therefore, we offer the following programs for adults:

- ❖ **ADULT STUDIES** – Weekly studies on various topics.
- ❖ **RENEW** – Weekly discussion on the upcoming Sunday Gospel.
- ❖ **CHURCH MISSION** – Annual mission for the parish.
- ❖ **CRHP** – Christ Renews His Parish – a personal and parish spiritual renewal process.
- ❖ **OCIA** – Order of Christian Initiation of Adults – for adults interested in joining the church.

Parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children. Through the programs below, we hope to partner with you in teaching your children to become dedicated missionary disciples.

- ❖ **Sacramental Preparation** – for Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation & Eucharist.
- ❖ **Parish School of Religion** – Weekly religious training (grades Pre-K – 8th grade).
- ❖ **Youth Group** – Bi-weekly social and religious training (grades 5th – 12th grade).
- ❖ **TOTUS TUUS** – Week-long summer “parish mission” program for youth (grades 1st – 12th).
- ❖ **Catholic Schools:**
 - **Saint John Neumann** – Elementary Education (grades Pre-K – 8th grade).
 - **Father McGivney High School** – Secondary Education (grades 9 – 12th grade).

The primary focus of all the catechetical programs at St. Cecilia is the formation for discipleship and stewardship as a way of life, with sacramental preparation seen as a step in this process, but not the end of the process.

Being a practicing Catholic must be taught as a way of life.

Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation, Confirmation & 1st Communion

In the Diocese of Springfield, IL, the Sacraments of Christian Initiation are offered in the original sequence (Baptism, Confirmation and Communion) for children. (*Go to restoredorder.dio.org for more information.*) All students from St. Cecilia will receive the sacraments together, regardless of where they attend school: parochial, public, or home.

- **First Reconciliation**
 - 2nd grade students will prepare for and receive.
 - Students will receive this sacrament at St. Cecilia.

- **Confirmation & 1st Communion**
 - 3rd grade students will prepare for and receive.
 - Students will receive these sacraments from the Bishop at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield. (*Go to dio.org/confirmation for more information.*)

Parents are the primary teachers for their children. With this in mind, our Sacramental Preparation programs contain both **parent only** instruction and **parent / student** instruction.

In order to participate in these preparation classes, students must:

- provide an official certificate of baptism,
- be a registered member of St. Cecilia,
- continue their classroom religious education program.

Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools

The purpose of Catholic education is to provide an environment of academic excellence where students learn how to become committed disciples of Jesus Christ, to grow in holiness as stewards of God's creation, share in the Good News of Christ's love with others and invite them to join us in the Christian community of the Catholic Church.

- Elementary students from St. Cecilia parish attend St. John Neumann School in Maryville, IL.

- High School students have a choice of several Catholic High Schools in the area, with Fr. McGivney in Maryville, IL being the closest.