



## Looking for volunteers!

Holy Cross is still seeking volunteers for next year. Contact Jerica if you are interested in teaching or helping in Family Sessions. We are planning to maintain the alternating class and Family Session schedule, but return the sacrament prep structure. Thank you!

### Contact Faith Formation

Call/text: (907) 306-9363

Email: [formation@holycrossalaska.net](mailto:formation@holycrossalaska.net)

## Register & Pay Online!

Learn more: [holycrossalaska.net/formation](http://holycrossalaska.net/formation)

Register: [holycrossalaska.net/register](http://holycrossalaska.net/register)

Paper copies also available in the Fellowship Hall.

### CONTENTS

- 1 At A Glance
- 2 Curriculum
- 3 Calendar
- 4 How Can I Help?
- 5 First Communion
- 6 Confirmation
- 7 Post-Confirmation



# FAITH FORMATION

## FALL '24: REGISTER NOW!

### Date, Time, Location

Sundays at Holy Cross, from 9:00am-10:45am.

### Ages & Grades

Classes available for Preschool-12 students and adults.

We follow Anchorage School District's guidelines to calculate school grades. Example: to enroll in kindergarten, for your child must be age 5 by Sept. 1.

### Classrooms & Family Sessions

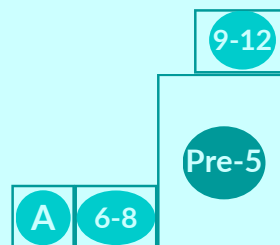
**Classrooms:** Every other week, students learn in a classroom with their peers.

**Family Sessions:** On alternate weeks, parents and students attend large-group Family Session together (if parents are unavailable, students attend with another relative or family friend).

For example:

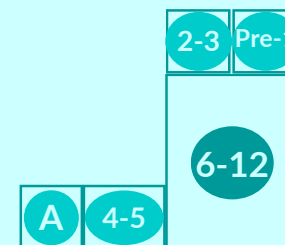
#### Week 1

GRADES K-5\*\* IN FAMILY SESSION.  
GRADES 6\*\*-12 IN CLASSROOMS.



#### Week 2

GRADES 6\*\*-12 IN FAMILY SESSION.  
GRADES K-5\*\* IN CLASSROOMS.



#### Weekdays

**Confirmation class** meets once a week from Sept - Apr (except during holidays & breaks).

**First Reconciliation & First Communion class** meet for 7 sessions immediately preceding each sacrament.

Weekday schedules are on the calendar on page 3.

\*\*Possibility to change before Faith Formation starts. Jerica will keep you posted.

### Early Bird Fees by May 5th

- 1 child: \$65
- 2 children: \$105
- 3+ children: \$140

### Sacramental material fees:\*

(retreats and supplies)

- First Communion (2nd+): \$65/child
- Confirmation Retreat (8th+): \$125/teen

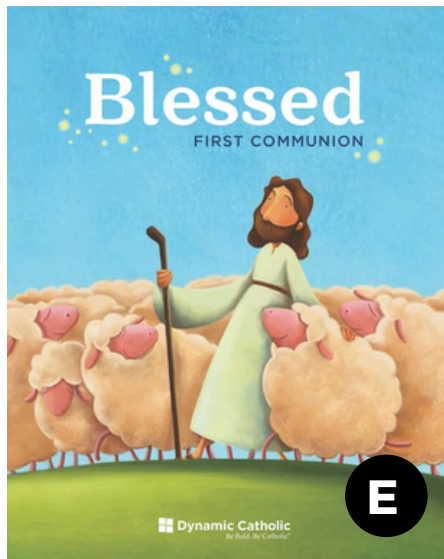
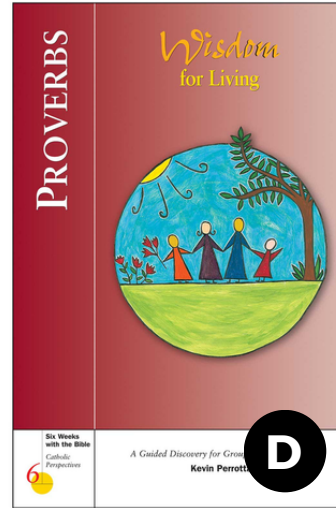
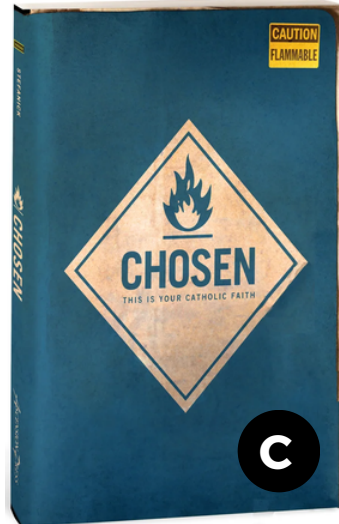
\*No one is turned away due to financial hardship! Contact us for financial aid.

# VBS SUMMER 2024



## Vacation Bible School: Save the Date

VBS is a summer program for kids who are entering in kindergarten-6th grade for the 2024-25 school year. Kids will be able to learn about God through Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Games, and KidVid. VBS will occur on June 11-14, 2024 from 4:30pm to 8pm. If you are a teen and an adult who are interested in volunteering, let Jerica know! If we have many adult volunteers, we will include preschoolers. Registration will begin on March 25, 2024. Early Bird Registration will end on April 28, 2024. Contact Jerica if you have questions.

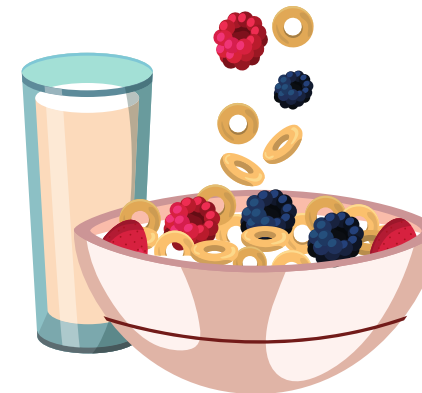


- A. Pflaum Gospel Weeklies (Preschool-5)
- B. Grades 6-8 classroom content
- C. High school class
- D. Six Weeks with the Bible (Adult class)
- E. First Reconciliation and First Communion
- F. Confirmation

After the 8 am Mass, you will be able to eat breakfast before going to class or Family Sessions.

We kindly ask that you bring a dish to share or make a financial contribution to the breakfast.

There is a sign up sheet by the kitchen doors if you want to bring in food. We suggest two different families for every Sunday bringing a breakfast type of dish. We also suggest families to bring dinner meals for Confirmation Prep classes on Tuesday nights. Please sign up two weeks prior the date listed.



If you wish to donate financially, there will be a small vase by the food that you can put cash in. Suggested donation per family: \$20 or whatever your heart desires. If you would like to donate online, go to [holycrossalaska.net/give](http://holycrossalaska.net/give).

Books A - D are Sunday classroom curriculum. Books E & F are used during sacrament prep classes, held outside of Sunday morning classes.



# ARE THERE ADULT CLASSES?

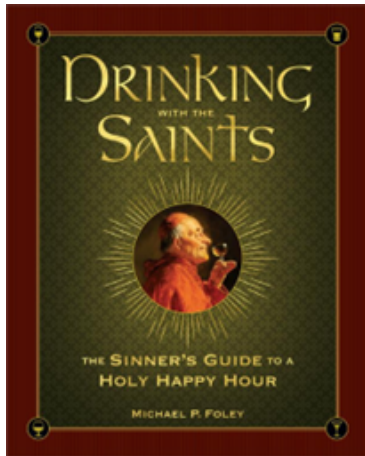
Yes! Parents can attend adult classes on Sundays while their kids are in their classes, or attend it just to learn more about our faith.

Books are included with no cost!

If you're interested in joining the adult classes, contact Jerica.

## YOUNG ADULT AND ADULT EVENTS

If you are in ages 18-39 and want to build a relationship with other young adults by meeting once a month, let Jerica know! Let's plan events together.



### Socializing with the Saints

Adults get to spend time together once a month to enjoy learning about inspiring saints, a bit of history, fellowship, food and drinks that is influenced by the "Drinking With the Saints" book! This is a potluck-style event, so come with something to share and be prepared to enjoy good company!

Meetings are usually held on 3rd or 4th Fridays of the month and rotate among host families. We are looking for more host families for this fun and casual event. Contact Jerica for details on this or future month's dates/locations.

During Lent, we will host a mini-series for young adults and adults. More information coming later in January.

Families can socialize together during the school year and summer! School year events will be scheduled around early August and summer events will be scheduled around December.

# CALENDAR

## AUGUST 2024

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Classes meet  
Sundays from  
9:00 am – 10:45 am  
Classes begin 8/18

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

9/1 Labor Day  
Conf Prep begins 9/10

## OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

10/11-10/14  
Youth Retreat  
FC Prep begins 10/19  
10/27 All Saints Carnival  
(Everyone in Fam Session)

## NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

11/1 Holy Day  
11/17 Confirmation Forms Due  
11/28 Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

12/14 First Reconciliation at 11 am  
12/15 Christmas Party (Everyone in Fam Session)  
12/25 Christmas

## JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

1/12 Class resumes  
1/14 Conf Prep Resumes

## FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## MARCH

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

3/1 FC Prep resumes  
3/5 Ash Wednesday  
3/9-3/16 Spring Break (no class)  
3/9-3/10 Youth "Sleepover"

## APRIL

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

4/13 Palm Sunday  
4/20 Easter Sunday (no class)

## MAY

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Confirmation Date: TBA  
5/3 First Communion  
5/4 Last Class Party (Everyone in Fam Session)  
5/18 Parish Picnic  
6/9-6/13 Vacation Bible School

### FAITH FORMATION COLOR CODE

Preschool-5 in Family Session, Grades 6+ in Classrooms. Grades 6+ in Family Session, Preschool-5 in Classrooms. Special Faith Formation Event. No class this weekend.

### SPECIAL PARISH EVENTS

Youth Retreat. First Reconciliation and First Communion Classes. Confirmation Classes. Youth Nights: 6-8pm. Youth Outings/Sleepover.

### A Note About Sacrament Mass

Confirmation Mass is chosen around December! Jerica will keep you posted once it has been picked.

# SACRAMENTS?

**Baptism:** any age  
Contact the office (349-8388) to schedule a baptism. Students in 2nd and 8th grade will automatically be enrolled in sacramental preparation.

**First Communion:**  
2nd grade and older  
If your older child has not yet received a sacrament, contact us.

**Confirmation:**  
8th grade and older  
The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) prepares adults to receive sacraments, separate from Sunday classes. Contact Deacon Sandon Broek at 947-9168.

# HOW CAN I HELP?

Volunteer Role	Day	Duration	Description
<b>Teachers &amp; Co-Teachers (Pre-12)</b> 12 teachers	Sunday	2x / month	Co-lead a classroom session using the provided curriculum
<b>Family Session volunteer</b> 4 volunteers per session	Sunday	2x / month or weekly	Facilitate breakout stations, large group activities, and setup/cleanup
<b>First Communion Preparation</b> 2 volunteers	Weekday (Saturdays)	6x / semester	Prepare students to receive the sacraments during special sessions
<b>Confirmation Preparation</b> 2 volunteers	Weekday (Tuesdays)	Weekly	Prepare students to receive the sacraments during special sessions
<b>Retreat chaperone</b> 10 volunteers needed	See calendar	1x / year	Overnight or day chaperone for one of 3 sacrament prep retreats
<b>Food Crew</b> 30 volunteers for Sundays + 25 for Confirmation Retreat	Sunday or Weekday	Once	Provide breakfast snacks (Sunday) or a meal for Youth Retreat (weekend)

Instead of attending Family Sessions, high school students who have already been Confirmed may opt to co-teach in a classroom or volunteer in another capacity.

# YOUTH NIGHTS



EVERY OTHER MONDAY AND FRIDAY

6 PM-8 PM

## WHAT'S A YOUTH NIGHT?

A Youth Night is where teens form a relationship with each other and God.

## WHO'S INVITED?

Teens who are in 6th grade to 12th grade



**Location:** Holy Cross Parish (sometimes)

## NEED A RIDE?

Jerica and other adult volunteers can offer rides if a parent/guardian cannot drop off teen(s) to particular locations.

## MEALS

Dinner is provided. If you want to contribute by donating or bringing a dish to share, let Jerica know.

## ACTIVITIES

- Talks
- Movie Nights
- Adoration
- Visiting parishes
- Volunteering
- etc.

## IF YOU'RE INTERESTED...

Please have your parent sign form(s). Let Jerica know if you want to be an adult volunteer to give rides.

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

Email Jerica at [formation@holycrossalaska.net](mailto:formation@holycrossalaska.net)



# YOUTH RETREAT



Grades 6-12 can attend a four-day (Fri-Mon) weekend retreat to spend quality time with their peers and grow closer with God.

The retreat will be at St. Therese's Camp in Wasilla on Friday, October 11th, until Monday, October 14th.

It is mandatory for Confirmation students to attend the retreat.

During the month of September, we will ask for donations for the retreat.

Adult volunteers are needed. Please contact Jerica if you are willing to volunteer.

# FIRST COMMUNION



**Note:** Students receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion in the same year.

## Prerequisites

- Students must be in 2nd grade or older.
- If your child is not baptized, let us know at registration.

## Parental Involvement

- Parents participate in their children's Catholic faith, as promised in baptism. This is demonstrated by weekly participation in Mass, Holy Days, and Family Sessions.
- It is required to attend the Adult classes.

## Preparation Classes

- Students attend all Sunday classes and Family Sessions.
- Sacrament-specific preparation (7 sessions for Reconciliation and 7 sessions for Communion) will occur outside the usual Sunday morning classes.
- In case of an absence (family trips, emergencies, illness, etc.) call or text (907) 306-9363. Please complete make-up work in a timely manner.



# CONFIRMATION



6

## Prerequisites

- Students must be in 8th grade or older. Older students (ages 16+) may choose to complete the OCIA process with adults instead. Contact us directly to see if this is a good fit for you.
- If your child has not been baptized, or has not yet received First Reconciliation or First Communion, let us know.

## Parental Involvement

- Parents participate in their children's Catholic faith, as promised in baptism. This is demonstrated by weekly participation in Mass, Holy Days, and Family Sessions.
- It is required to attend the Adult classes.

## Student Initiative

- During Confirmation, students affirm their own faith: they commit to live a fully conscious and active Christian life. The decision to be Confirmed and live as a Catholic is made by the student, not the parents.
- We recommend teens attend all classes, retreats, service experiences, etc. to make an informed decision about faith.

## Class Attendance

- Students attend all Sunday classes and Family Sessions.
- Students attend sacrament-specific preparation (during the weekday, Sept - Apr).
- In case of an absence (family trips, emergencies, illness, etc.) call or text (907) 306-9363. Please complete make-up work in a timely manner.

## Youth Retreat

- A four-day (Fri - Mon) weekend retreat will be held at St. Therese's Camp in Wasilla. A separate packet will be available to attendees. Students who are unavailable that weekend may attend another parish's retreat instead.

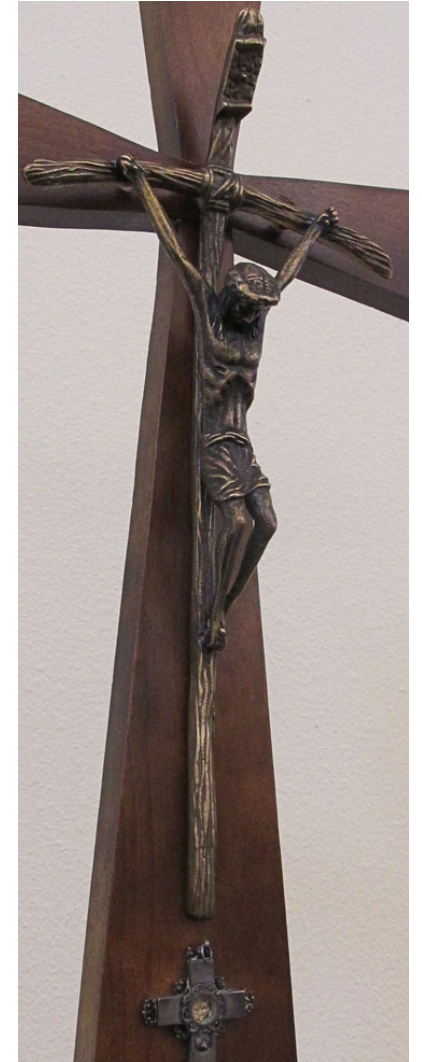
## Service Project

- Students are asked to lead one service project. This project may benefit the church or in the local community, and they may co-lead with up to 2 classmates. Please present your project idea for review before beginning work on it!
- A service project guidebook will be available to students during their preparation process.

## Liturgical Ministry Apprenticeship

All Confirmation students are trained in a liturgical ministry and participate within the regular weekend schedule. The following liturgical ministries are available:

- Altar Servers
- Hospitality
- Lectors
- Music: Choir/Cantor or Instrumentalist
- Art & Environment (during weekdays only)
- Sacristans (application process; by approval only)



# POST-CONFIRMATION

Students who have been Confirmed have 3 options for continuing Faith Formation:

- Attend every other week Post-Confirmation class with their peers (no Family Session included)
- Attend Family Session with younger siblings
- Volunteer to teach, co-teach, or lead a small group

7