



ST. MICHAEL

Catholic Church • Grand Ledge

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION

2023-24 Handbook

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MISSION

The mission of the St. Michael Religious Education and Formation Program is to reflect the teachings of Jesus through Word, Sacrament, and Deed; to empower parents as the primary educators of their children; and to support and encourage the adults, teens, and children of our Parish to grow in knowledge and love of our Lord so they may fully respond to God's Word throughout their lifetime.

CHILD AND FAMILY MINISTRY (GRADES PK-9)

Megan Drake, Coordinator
megandrake@stmichaelgl.org
517-627-8493, ext. 14

YOUTH GROUP LEADER (GRADES 7-12)

Cary Anderson
caryanderson@stmichaelgl.org
517-627-8493

Melissa Coll-Smith, Faith Formation Secretary
melissacollsmith@stmichaelgl.org
517-627-8493, ext. 10

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SAFE ENVIRONMENT

VIRTUS—PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Our parish participates in the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children program. All who work with children are to complete the requirements set forth by the Diocese of Lansing, including a background check and attending a Protecting God's Children session. For further information on what is required, please see the Diocese of Lansing website www.dioceseoflansing.org or contact Teri Marshall at 517-627-8493 ext. 11, or by emailing her at terimarshall@stmichaelgl.org.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Circle of Grace is children's safety curriculum developed by the archdiocese of Omaha and used throughout the Lansing diocese. It serves the dual purpose of prevention/safety education and informing children and youth about the value of positive relationships with God and others.

Learn more about the curriculum at: archomaha.org/circleofgrace

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Michael offers a complete program of catechesis and faith formation for children from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade.

PK-K Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

1-8 Religious Education Classes

1-8 Family Home Study

Sacrament Preparation:

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist
Confirmation

Christian Initiation for Children



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Religious Education Program for children in grades PK-8 who are attending public schools or are homeschooled.

Our goal is to support families by creating a program of lifelong faith formation that is centered in and flows out of the events of Church life. We aim to provide an engaging faith learning experiences and reinforce a growing friendship with Jesus while utilizing textbooks and activity books that conform with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Our program, Alive in Christ, features a unique spiral scope and sequence based on seven essential doctrinal themes. Age-appropriate content for each theme is presented at every grade level as the child grows and develops.

Classes meet Sundays in the school between the 8:30 Mass and the 11:00 Mass so that families are able to attend the Mass of their choice.

On the Third Sunday of every month all the students and their families will meet together for a RE Family Day. We will have faith-filled activities planned to encourage the strengthening of our parish community. Families will be invited to the Children & Family Mass at 11:00 where we will celebrate the Eucharist together.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program will be available to Pre-Schoolers and Kindergarteners.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN, AGES 3-6

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a unique approach to Faith Formation, founded in both Sacred Scripture and Liturgy, and rich with the spiritual teachings and traditions of the Church. The Catechesis proclaims the message of Jesus to children in an age-appropriate, hands-on, and engaging learning environment. The image of the Good Shepherd helps the children understand that our God is a loving and caring God who takes care of His children like a shepherd tends to his sheep. The Atrium offers a beautiful, peaceful environment for our kindergartners enrolled in Sunday morning Religious Education.

GRADES 1-8 FAMILY HOME STUDY

*Every 3rd Sunday of the Month
9:45-10:45 am*

Religious Education Program for children in grades 1-8 who are attending public schools or are homeschooled and are interested in an alternative to traditional program.

The first catechists in any child's life are the family members with whom he or she lives. As part of a parent-led program, families complete each unit at home using provided lesson plans and online resources before joining the larger group of registered families for monthly sessions. This allows children to receive instruction at home and still be in a community with other Catholic families and peers.

Our goal is to support families by creating a program of lifelong faith formation that is centered in and flows out of the events of Church life.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN (OCIC)

The Catholic Church has a special process for those interested in becoming Catholic called the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. Here at St. Michael Parish (and parishes throughout the world) this process has been adapted for children and is intended for families with children who have never been baptized and/or have never received First Eucharist.

Children who seek Christian initiation either at the direction of their parents or guardians or, with parental permissions, on their own initiative.

What is required of a child in OCIC?

Regular attendance at Mass and Religious Education classes, as well as active participation in class discussions and activities.

What is the process and how do we start?

If your child or someone you know is interested in learning more about God and the Catholic faith or are a baptized Catholic who wishes to complete their initiation Sacraments, please contact Megan Drake at our parish office for more information and to schedule an interview before classes begin.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST RECONCILIATION & EUCHARIST

For all St. Michael Parish second graders and above who wish to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

All students wishing to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist must participate in Religious Education, either through the Parish School or the Religious Education Program, the year prior to and the year of the sacrament.

Students wishing to prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist must have already received the sacrament of Baptism. In accordance with diocesan guidelines, all students will prepare for Reconciliation prior to preparation for their first Eucharist. First Reconciliation will be celebrated on December 7th.

Sacrament classes for Reconciliation and First Eucharist normally begin in 2nd grade and the process involves a series of parent/child workshops aimed at involving the whole family in the preparation. Children will be invited to make their First Reconciliation in December. First Eucharists will be celebrated at all three liturgies during the weekend of May 4th/May 5th.

If you are unsure if your child is prepared for Sacramental Preparation because your child did not attend Religious Education last year, has not been baptized, or is past the usual sacrament year of 2nd grade please contact Megan Drake to make arrangements.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

CONFIRMATION

For all St. Michael Parish eighth graders and above who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Students wishing to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation must have already received the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Sacrament classes for Confirmation may begin in 8th grade.

Confirmation students will participate in Religious Education classes during their preparation, and may choose the option that best fits their needs:

- the parish/diocesan school (St. Michael School/Lansing Catholic)
- the eighth-grade religious education program
- the high school youth group

Students will be expected to attend a series of workshops, a local retreat and complete community service hours and faith formation hours as part of their preparation.

All students will need a sponsor who is an active member in the Catholic Church who will be able to be present at the Rite of Confirmation. There will be various activities for the sponsor and student to complete together throughout the year. If the family is unable to find a sponsor, we will help find a good match in the parish.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Cary Anderson, Coordinator
caryanderson@stmichaelgl.org
517-627-8493

Middle and High school years can be a challenging time for teenagers. Actively participating in one's personal faith is beneficial in successfully navigating these challenging waters. Having an outlet to grow and learn from other like-minded Christian peers, while cultivating authentic friendships and a deep faith in God, are the key components to the programs offered to our teens at St. Michael Parish. Our team is excited to partner with you in nurturing your child's faith by accompanying them in their faith development, supplementing the teachings and support they receive at home. We understand that faith in action along with personal encounters with the living God help to form young people into lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

For Middle School & High School aged students of
St. Michael Parish.

Hello! I am Cary Anderson, the middle and high school youth group coordinator. I have been a member of St. Michael for over 20 years and feel honored to serve our parish youth.

My goal is for our youth to have opportunities to encounter the love of Christ in their lives and become courageous spirit-filled disciples that passionately live out discipleship. Please know my door is always open to any questions or concerns you may have, and I look forward to meeting and growing with not only the youth but the whole family.

Kathleen Krancich, Sarah Fuller, Gina Gamble and I will be serving as leaders for the group. All leaders are a wealth of knowledge and energy and will serve as meaningful mentors to your son or daughter. We are here to support you in your journey as a parent who seeks to raise their children in a faith that reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Youth Group Online Sign-Up form is expected to be completed for each teen and is available at www.stmichaelgl.org/youth-group-sign-up

There is NO FEE for participation.

**All Middle and High School activities meet in the
school and Siena Room on**

Tuesdays from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Calendar available at
www.stmichaelgl.org/youthgroup

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

PK-K Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Sundays, 9:45-10:45am
 1st-8th Grade Religious Education classes: Sundays, 9:45-10:45am
 1st-8th Grade Family Home Study: Third Sunday of each month 9:45-10:45am

Classes will begin September 17th, 2023

September	2023	
14	Confirmation Information Meeting, 6:00PM-7:00PM	Siena Room
17	RE Open House/3rd Sunday Family Faith Formation (Church Tours)	Fellowship Hall
17	Catechetical Sunday, 11:00AM Mass	Church
21	Reconciliation Parent Information Meeting, 6:00PM-7:00PM	Fellowship Hall
24	No Class	
October		
1	No Class	
8	Sunday RE Class (Unit 1: Revelation, Chapt. 1)	School
8	Confirmation Class Meeting, 9:45-10:45AM	Siena Room
15	Sunday RE/3rd Sunday Family Faith Formation (Living Rosary)	Fellowship Hall
19	Reconciliation Child/Parent Workshop #1, 6:00PM-7:00PM	Fellowship Hall
22	Sunday RE Class (Unit 1: Revelation, Chapt. 2)	School
29	Sunday RE Class (Unit 1: Revelation, Chapt. 3)	School
November		
5	Sunday RE Class (Unit 2: Trinity, Chapt. 1)	School
9	Reconciliation Child/Parent Workshop #2, 6:00PM-7:00PM	Siena Room
12	Sunday RE Class (Unit 2: Trinity, Chapt. 2)	School
12	Confirmation Class Meeting, 9:45-10:45AM	Siena Room
12	Confirmation Rite of Welcome, 11:00AM Mass	Church
19/26	No Class—Thanksgiving	
December		
3	Sunday RE Class (Unit 2: Trinity, Chapt. 3)	School
7	Reconciliation Celebration, 6:00PM	Church
10	Sunday RE Class (Unit 3: Jesus Christ, Chapt. 1)	School
10	Confirmation Class Meeting, 9:45-10:45AM	Siena Room
17	Sunday RE/3rd Sunday Family Faith Formation (Advent/Nativity Story)	Fellowship Hall
24/31	No Class—Christmas	

JANUARY	2024	
7	Sunday RE Class (Unit 3: Jesus Christ, Chapt. 2)	School
14	No Class - MLK Day	
20	Confirmation Retreat, 1:00PM-5:30PM	Siena Room
21	Sunday RE/3rd Sunday Family Faith Formation (Church Seasons and the Sacraments)	Fellowship Hall
28	Sunday RE Class (Unit 3: Jesus Christ, Chapt. 3)	School
FEBRUARY		
4	Sunday RE Class (Unit 4: The Church, Chapt. 1)	School
8	1st Eucharist Parent Information Meeting, 6:00-7:00PM	Fellowship Hall
11	Sunday RE/3rd Sunday Family Faith Formation (Salvation History Story Telling)	Fellowship Hall
11	Confirmation Class Meeting, 9:45-10:45AM	Siena Room
18	No Class – President’s Day	
25	Sunday RE Class (Unit 4: The Church, Chapt. 2)	School
MARCH		
3	Sunday RE Class (Unit 4: The Church, Chapt. 3)	School
7	1st Eucharist Child/Parent Workshop #1, 6:00PM-7:00PM	Fellowship Hall
9 & 10	Ministry Fair, following all Masses	Fellowship Hall
10	Sunday RE Class (Unit 6: Sacraments, Chapt. 1)	School
10	Confirmation Class Meeting, 9:45-10:45AM	Siena Room
17	Sunday RE/3rd Sunday Family Faith Formation (Lenten Stations of the Cross)	Fellowship Hall
24	No Class – Spring Break	
31	No Class - Easter	
APRIL		
7	Sunday RE Class (Unit 6: Sacraments, Chapt. 2)	School
7	Confirmation Class Meeting, 9:45-10:45AM	Siena Room
7	Confirmation Rite of Sending, 11:00 Mass	Church
11	1st Eucharist Child/Parent Workshop #2, 6:00PM-7:00PM	Fellowship Hall
14	No Class (Confirmation Celebration)	
14	Confirmation Celebration, 2:30PM Mass	St. Mary Cathedral
21	Sunday RE/3rd Sunday Family Faith Formation (Celebration of the Risen Christ)	Fellowship Hall
28	Sunday RE Class (Unit 6: Sacraments, Chapt. 3)	School
MAY		
2	1st Eucharist Practice & Pictures, 6:00PM	Church
4 & 5	1st Eucharist Celebrations, All Masses	Church
5	No Class (1st Eucharist Celebrations)	
12	Sunday RE Class (Unit 7: Kingdom of God, Chapt. 1)	School
19	Last Sunday RE/3rd Sunday Family Faith Formation (Pentecost & Holy Spirit)	Fellowship Hall

STUDENT/PARENT GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. If a student will be absent, we ask parents to notify Melissa Coll-Smith by calling the parish office at 517-627-8493. Late arrivals and early dismissals are disruptive for everyone, so we ask that parents make an effort to avoid this whenever possible.

HOMEWORK AND PROJECTS

Catechists may assign activities to be completed outside of the usual class meeting times. Often these will require students and parents to work together. Students are expected to complete and submit work as requested by their catechist.

SPECIAL EVENTS and FIELD TRIPS

Special events such as Reconciliations and Third Sunday Family Day, as well as service projects and retreats, are considered part of the regular Religious Education program. Participation is expected.

BEHAVIOR AND CLASS CONDUCT

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that is appropriate to a Christian learning environment. Students should be appropriately engaged with class activities and respectful of their catechist and classmates. Parents will be notified and may be asked to be present in the class if any student is acting inappropriately.

CELL PHONES

Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones to class; if they must have one with them, it should be turned off/silenced for the duration of the class. If a student uses a cell phone during class, it may be taken away and returned to the parents during pick-up.

SAFETY GUIDELINES/COVID-19

All St. Michael Religious Education programs will continue to monitor and follow any CDC recommendations or guidelines should they be issued. The health and safety of our families, students and Catechists is our top concern.

Please keep your child at home if they are experiencing one or more of the following symptoms:

- ◆ Fever (Fever above 100.4 degrees or signs of a fever such as chills/sweating)
- ◆ Vomiting, Diarrhea or Abdominal Pain
- ◆ Sore Throat
- ◆ Cough (New uncontrolled cough)
- ◆ Headache (New onset of severe headache)
- ◆ Difficulty Breathing (change in their normal breathing)

Your help keeping everyone healthy is appreciated,
Thank you!

TUITION

Scale for grades K-8:

1 student = \$90, 2 students = \$170,

3 or more students = \$235

15% Discount if you register by September 1st!

50% Discount if you volunteer to be a Catechist!

Payment is due upon registration . You can pay online at giving.parishsoft.com/app/Giving/stm345273/FAITHFORMATION , or mail to and make checks payable to:

St. Michael Parish

345 Edwards St.

Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

If you send a check, please indicate that it is for Religious Education and the family name(s) of your students.

TUITION ASSISTANCE

We have never turned away anyone who has a desire to learn about and grow in our Catholic Faith . If you need assistance in paying for religious education and formation for your children, please contact Megan

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Please let us know if your child has special needs. We will work with you to make sure that your child receives the appropriate attention and instruction.

SCRIP PROGRAM

Earn rebates toward your Religious Education tuition!

Scrip is simply a word that means “substitute money.” In other words, *Scrip* is gift certificates from national and local retailers. Hundreds of popular retailers participate in our Scrip program including Meijer, Shell Gas, Speedway, Cugino’s and many, many others. The program is simple. *Scrip* participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Families buy the certificates for full face value, they redeem them for full face value, and **you** and our school share the rebate. Our school retains 14%, which goes towards the annual school budget and helps to cover expenses to run the program. You keep the remaining 86% of the difference. *Scrip* rebates are applied to your account monthly and are not refundable. For example:

<u>Gift Cert.</u>	<u>Card Amount</u>	<u>Rebate Amount</u>
Meijer	\$100	\$3.00
<i>(\$2.58 /86% of rebate to family: \$0.42=14% rebate to St. Michael School)</i>		

St. Michael Parish offers easy options to purchase your gift certificates:

- Online at www.raiseright.com. Please contact the Parish Office for our enrollment code.
- Cash and Carry/On Hand at the parish office.

Enrollment is open to everyone; grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, neighbors, family/friends living out of the area, etc. If you would like to begin earning rebates towards your tuition/fees or would like more information, please contact Scrip coordinator, Kathleen Krancich at 517-643-0223, or by email at kathleenmk@gmail.com.

ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

St. Michael Parish school-sponsored teams participate in the Lansing CYAC during the school year in girls volleyball and boys' and girls' basketball. Open to grades 5, 6, 7, and 8.

Eligibility for RE Students:

St. Michael Parish children who are not St. Michael Parish School students are eligible to participate if there are open spots, provided that they are currently registered in our religious education program, and in good attendance at time of registration. Once the availability of open spots has been determined, the Religious Education Coordinator will email the families of those students currently participating in our religious education program. Religious Education students register on a first-come, first-served basis. A completed registration form, player fee, and signed back page of athletic handbook must be turned in on the day of registration in order to be accepted. Any registrations turned in after the date will be placed on a waiting list.

For the complete handbook and information, please see our School's Athletic webpage at:

school.stmichaelgl.org/school-information/athletics

or you can contact the principal, Nathan Sweet, at nathansweet@stmichaelgl.org.

Would you like to volunteer with the Religious Education team?

Religious Education is in need of faithful servants of God. Please consider how you might serve our parish in sharing your time and talents in this ministry as: Catechist, Assistant Catechist, Substitute Catechist, or Youth Group volunteer.

There is a 50% discount for volunteers for their year commitment.

Top Reasons to Become a Catechist

- Your Baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
- Children, teens, and adults in today's world, more than ever, need to hear the Good News of Jesus and they need to encounter good role models of faith—you will be helping children and teens deepen their relationship with Jesus.
- You have much to share with those you'll teach, and you'll have opportunities to share faith with other catechists.
- Today's catechetical textbooks/resources offer outstanding support.
- You'll be challenged, you'll have fun, and you'll make new friends.
- You'll be handing on a 2000-year-old tradition that changes lives.

If you are interested, please contact Megan Drake at: megandrake@stmichaelgl.org or call 517-627-8493.