

# 7 & 8 Grade Faith Formation 2011-2012

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## We are *Disciples in Training*

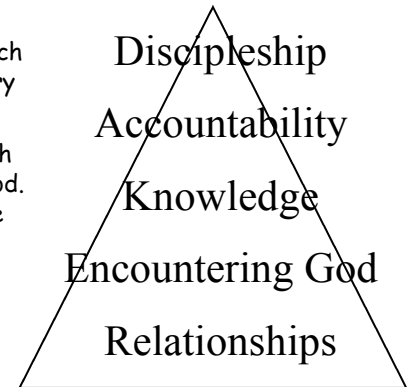
These are important years in the life of our youth—they are trying to figure out who they are and where they fit in. The goal of Faith Formation is to help them to figure out who they are and where they fit into the life of the church and their own spirituality.

In the pyramid we see 5 stages of faith. All of these stages are very important to faith building. Like any good pyramid you must have a strong

foundation. Relationships within the church are so valuable to young people as they try to grow in their faith.

It is when we have built relationships with others that we can find and encounter God. The more we encounter God, the more we thirst for knowledge of Him and we seek Him in our lives.

With a good understanding of God in our lives we grow in both accountability and discipleship.



The 7th and 8th grade Faith Formation program is set up to allow for some flexibility. Below you will see the class schedule which gives the option of Sunday mornings for 1-hour, or a less often Wednesday evening class which meets for 2-hours. Students can choose which class they will participate in for each 2 month session.



## Class Schedule

### Session 1: September/October

Sunday Mornings (9:10-10:20)  
September 18 & 25  
October 2, 9, & 16

Wednesday Evening (6:30-8:30)

© St. Henry Parish Youth Room

September 21  
October 5 & 12

### Session 2: November/December

Sunday Mornings (9:10-10:20)  
October 30  
November 6, 13 & 20  
December 4, 11 & 18

Wednesday Evening (6:30-8:30)

© St. Henry Parish Youth Room

November 2 & 16  
December 7

### Session 3: January/February

Sunday Mornings (9:10-10:20)  
January 8, 15 & 22  
February 5, 12 & 19

Wednesday Evening (6:30-8:30)

January 4 @ St Henry Church  
January 18 @ St Mary Youth Room  
February 1 @ St Mary Youth Room

### Session 4: March/April

Sunday Mornings (9:10-10:20)  
March 4, 11, 18 & 25  
April 15 & 22

Wednesday Evening (6:30-8:30)

March 7 @ St Mary Youth Room  
March 21 @ St Henry Church  
March 28 @ St Henry Church

### Protection of Children:

In the interest of the Protection of Children all Catechists and volunteers who work with children or youth in the parish are required to attend VIRTUS training and have a background check completed. Parents are encouraged to attend a VIRTUS training as well. For a list of training dates please contact the DRE. If you are interested in more information regarding keeping children safe visit the VIRTUS website: [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). This website provides articles that focus on keeping children safe, there are new articles available every other week.

## General Guidelines

### Arrival:

SUNDAY Classes will begin at 9:10am. Students should all gather in the gym and will be dismissed to their classrooms from there.

There will be days when the 8am Mass may run long (*Palm Sunday, for example*) and students who are attending Mass in the morning should come to class as soon as Mass is completed.

WEDNESDAY Classes will begin promptly at 6:30pm. For sessions 1 & 2 we will meet in the St. Henry Youth Room. For Sessions 3 & 4 we will meet at St. Mary Youth Room unless the schedule says differently.

### Attendance:

If you know ahead of time that your child is going to be absent, please call (753-7374) or email ([sthenrysre@marshallnet.com](mailto:sthenrysre@marshallnet.com)) to let us know. At the beginning of class, catechists will take attendance, and the charts will be picked up shortly thereafter. The parents/guardians of any child who is absent may be called to confirm that the child is known to be out of class.

If a student is absent more than 2 days (or 2 class hours) they will need to make-up the work missed. It is the student's responsibility to get make-up work from the DRE to complete and return. By completing the work and returning it, their absence will be excused.

Make-up work may require attendance at a parish function, extra reading materials or other activities due to the use of interactive activities and discussions during class that cannot be reproduced in homework.

### Cancellation of classes:

SUNDAY: If classes are canceled due to inclement weather, you can usually find the information at:

- *TV*: KCCI (channel 8) or WHO (channel 13)
- *Radio*: KDAO (99.5 FM) or KFJB (1230 AM) / KIX (101.1 FM) (*you can also check the corresponding website for any of these TV or Radio stations*)
- *Email*: if you receive the Family Newsletter via email you will receive email notice

- *Answering Machine*: You can call the parish office (753-7374—extension 106), any cancellation will be on the out-going message.

WEDNESDAY: Classes are automatically canceled if Marshalltown schools cancel or dismiss early due to weather.

### Dismissal:

SUNDAY: Students will be dismissed from their classrooms at 10:20am.

WEDNESDAY: Students will be dismissed at 8:30pm.

### Early Departure:

If you need to pick up your child early from class for any reason, please have your child bring a note or speak directly with the catechist or DRE.

### Illness or injury:

If your child is ill and cannot attend class, please feel free to

contact the DRE ([sthenrysre@marshallnet.com](mailto:sthenrysre@marshallnet.com) or 641-753-7374).

If your child becomes ill while in class he/she will be brought to the DRE office until the end of class time. If the child is vomiting or seriously ill, parents will be contacted to pick up their child before class is over.

### Phone:

All students are asked to keep cell phones off and put away during class. Any student needing to make a phone call can do so before or after class. A phone can be made available for students as needed.

### Lost Articles:

Lost and found articles are kept in the Religious Education Office or in the lost and found box at the Church.

### Communication:

Catechists and parents are encouraged to meet each other and openly talk about what is happening in classes. Feel free to talk to the catechist in your child's room or contact the DRE if there are any concerns or questions.

A Faith Formation newsletter, will be sent out to all families in the parish in September, November, January and March. Supplemental or K-9 specific information will be sent in the fashion you chose on your registration form.

*Attendance for Religious Education  
Adopted August 20, 1996, updated April, 2010  
St. Henry Parish Board of Education*

In accordance with Archdiocesan Policies & Guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation and Archdiocesan policy 5144, enrollment in the Religious Education program is required as preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Three (3) absences a year, without make-up work being completed and turned in by the last class, would be considered grounds for dismissal from that year.

**Discipline:**

Discipline is usually handled by the catechist. A child may be sent to the DRE if their behavior is serious or causing a disruption to the rest of the class. The process is outlined below.

**Prayers, Beliefs and Practices:**

Prayer is to be an integral part of every lesson at all age levels. Parents/guardians are to help their child learn their prayers. Please see the prayers at the end of this booklet. Use this at home to introduce new prayers to your child and to assist your child in learning them and knowing them to the best of their ability.

**Curriculum:**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders are using Harcourt Junior High Call to Faith thematic series. This series covers the same themes as the K-6 grade but spends more time on each theme. This is a rotating curriculum. In year 1 (2011-2012) all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will focus on the themes of Morality, The Kingdom of God, and The Trinity. In year 2 students focus on Revelation, Sacraments, The Church and Jesus Christ.

**Human Sexuality Curriculum:**

Human sexuality instruction will be integrated into the year 1 curriculum (2011-2012).

**Safe Environment:**

The safe environment curriculum will be covered every other year for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Parents have an option of choosing to allow their child(ren) to not participate in this curriculum. A form is available for opting out of this curriculum. If you would like a form please contact the DRE. Will be done in 2012-2013)

**Sacramental Liturgies:**

All families are invited to join the St. Henry Parish community at the celebration of Eucharist before or after classes. There are Parish Communal Reconciliation Services during Advent and Lent. When applicable the students on Wednesday evenings will participate in activities on campus.

**Field Trips:**

If a field trip is planned, parental permission forms are to be signed and returned prior to departure. Any student without a signed permission form will not be allowed on the field trip. Adult chaperones and drivers are often needed.

**Guests:**

Sometimes children like to bring a friend or cousin to class with them. We would appreciate knowing in advance so that the Catechist can prepare for an extra student.

In order to assure the safety of a guest we do request that you provide emergency information:

- Student's name
- Name and number of responsible adult

All guests must remain in the classroom for the duration of the class or be picked-up early.

*Adopted August 20, 1996*

*St Henry Parish Board of Education*

Archdiocesan Policy 5144 states discipline provides for a safe and productive educational environment.

In accordance with Archdiocesan policy 5144.1 most discipline will be addressed by the student's catechist.

Recurring discipline problems will be handled with the following procedure:

**First Offense:**

When discipline becomes a problem with a student, they will be sent to the Religious Education Office. A *First Offense Notice* stating the reason the student was sent out of the classroom will be completed at that time. The student is responsible for giving the slip to his/her parent/guardian and a copy will be placed in the student's file. The Religious Education Office will notify his/her parent(s) within three (3) days by telephone.

**Second Offense:**

In the event a student is sent to the office a second time, a *Second Offense Notice* will be completed following the same procedure as the first offense. This slip must be signed by the student's parent/guardian and returned to the Religious Education Office before the student can re-enter the class.

**Third Offense:**

If a student is sent to the Religious Education Office a third time, it will be cause for dismissal. A *Third Offense Notice* will be completed and a parent/guardian will be called immediately to pick up the student and a letter will be sent by mail. Copies of the *Notice* and the letter will be filed in the student's record.

A review of the decision for dismissal can be made only after requests by both student and his/her parent(s) are submitted to the Religious Education Office, and a meeting is held with the student, his/her parent(s), the catechist, Director of Religious Education and Pastor.

**Help for Victims of Sexual Abuse:**

The Archdiocese of Dubuque has established a program of pastoral assistance to people who believe they or those in their care have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other Church personnel. This assistance will include help in informing civil and Church authorities. Victim Assistance Coordinators are trained to facilitate access to appropriate professional mental health services, social services agencies, support groups and/or individuals who can provide spiritual care. Any individual desiring help from this program is invited to call toll free 800-803-6758 or 866-319-4536 to report an allegation or receive assistance. This program is part of the new "Policy for the Protection of Minors."

**We're on the web:  
www.sthenrychurch.com**

**7th and 8th Grade Youth Ministry @ St. Henry and St. Mary Church**

The purpose of the 7th & 8th grade CYU (Catholic Youth United) is...

- ♥To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
- ♥To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
- ♥To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person we encounter.

7th and 8th grade CYU is for any 7th and 8th grader who is interested in seeking and finding fellowship.

7th and 8th grade CYU meets bi-weekly on Sundays from 7:00-8:00pm alternating between St. Mary and St. Henry youth rooms.

Other opportunities are available throughout the year.

All youth are welcome to attend any or all activities.

All 7-12th grade youth will receive a newsletter with the planned activities for the month in their mailboxes at church or by mail. You can also view this newsletter and retrieve all permissions slips on the church website [www.sthenrychurch.com](http://www.sthenrychurch.com)

For more information contact:

Lisa Lynk

[sthenrysym1@marshallnet.com](mailto:sthenrysym1@marshallnet.com) or 753-7374

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Please contact either your child's Catechist or the DRE if you would like to have a listing of all prayers your child should know before the 7th grade. The list is also available on the church website

**7th Grade**

**Jesus Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**Mary's Prayer (Magnificat)**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**8th Grade**

**Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became Man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Prayer of St. Francis/Prayer for Peace**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.