

Registration for Children's Religious Education at St. Alphonsus

Classes begin
September 22, 2009



Inscripción para clases de doctrina para los niños en San Alfonso

Las clases darán
comienzo
22 de septiembre, 2009

*Let the children come to me,
and do not prevent them;
for the kingdom of heaven belongs
to such as these.*

On the following pages, you will find a **registration form for one child**. If you need more forms, you can make copies. Also, we need a copy of the baptismal certificate for each child who was not baptized at St. Alphonsus.

You will also find **an emergency release form for each family**.

You can return these forms to the rectory, to my attention, no later than August 31. (1429 W. Wellington, Chicago, IL 60657) Please include the tuition payment, if possible: \$175 for one child; \$275 for two children; \$350 for three children or more.

The classes are on Tuesdays from 6:15 PM to 7:30 PM. **This year we have a class for kindergarten as well.**

Please note that children must attend each year in grades one through eight (or Confirmation). There is different material and subject matter in each grade. Also, each child must attend two years before celebrating a sacrament.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 773-525-0709 or ccrino@aol.com.

I look forward to seeing you and your children as classes begin!

Catherine Crino



*For Curriculum outline and
sacrament preparation information,
click here.*



*Dejen a esos niños ...
que vengan a mí,
porque el Reino de los Cielos
es de los que se asemejan a los niños.*

En las siguientes páginas encontrarán **una forma de registración para cada niño(a)**. Si necesita más formas, puede hacer copias fotostáticas. También necesitó una copia del acta de bautismo de su hijo(a), si no fue bautizado(a) en San Alfonso.

También encontrarán **una forma que cada familia debe llenar para en case de urgencias**.

Por favor de regresar estas formas a la rectoría, a mi atención, no más tarde del 31 de agosto. (1429 W. Wellington, Chicago, IL 60657) Favor de incluir el paga apropiado, si posible: \$175 por un niño(a), \$275 por dos niños, y \$350 por tres niños or más.

Hay clases los martes de 6:15 AM a 7:30 PM. **Este año, tenemos una clase de kindergarten, también.**

Los niños deben atender las clases cado año en grados 1 a 8. Hay diferentes materiales in cado grado. También, cado niño deben atender dos años antes de celebrar un sacramento.

Si tienen alguna pregunta, favor de llamarme a éste numero - 773-525-0709 - o a ccrino@aol.com.

Espero pronto poder conocer a ustedes y a sus hijos.

Catherine Crino



Curriculum Outline for Each Grade:

The full curriculum for religion at St. Alphonsus is available, if you would like a copy. What follows is a summary of the goals for each level along with the material which will be included in the baseline testing.

Kindergarten The goals of the Kindergarten program are to help young children discover their membership in a larger family, the church. They are introduced to the stories of our tradition in the Bible, the family of the saints and basic prayers. Families are asked to read with their children at home to help reinforce the concepts presented in class.

First Year The goals of the First Year curriculum are to introduce students to a structured study of their faith. The concentration is on 1) helping them to begin to understand their creation by a loving God; 2) helping them to learn the formal prayers of the church and to begin a life of prayer; 3) helping them to understand their membership in the church.

By the end of first year, students will be expected to know the Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Second Grade The goals of the Second Grade curriculum focus on preparing the students for the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist. In the course of this preparation, they concentrate upon 1) the life and person of Jesus; 2) how the church celebrates the sacraments in its liturgy; 3) how they can draw closer to God in prayer and in the sacraments.

In addition to their text, first communion candidates use *The Gift of the Eucharist* in class and at home with their families.

By the end of second grade, students will be expected to know an Act of Contrition, the basic responses for the mass, and a prayer to say after receiving communion.

Third Grade The Third Grade curriculum concentrates on what it means to belong to the church. Themes taught in first and second grades are repeated in greater depth, as the students are growing in their understanding. They specifically explore 1) how the church functions; 2) what the church believes in the Creed; 3) how the church depends upon Scripture.

By the end of third grade, students will be expected to know the Apostles' Creed and be able to describe basic personnel (priest, bishop, etc.) and basic structures (parish, Vatican, etc.) in the church.

Fourth Grade The focus of the Fourth Grade curriculum is the foundation for morality in the Beatitudes and the Commandments. Students will 1) learn how our moral tradition is rooted in the Old and New Testaments; 2) what the church teaches about how we should live our lives; 3) explore ways that they can "do good and avoid evil" in their everyday lives.

By the end of fourth grade, students will be able to list the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the precepts of the church, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Fifth Grade The Fifth Grade curriculum concentrates on the sacraments and the liturgy of the church. In addition, they will explore the Scriptures further. Students will 1) learn about each of the sacraments in more depth; 2) have a working familiarity with the liturgy and the liturgical year; 3) explore the life and message of St. Paul.

By the end of fifth grade, students will be able to list, describe and define each sacrament, to list the basic parts of the mass, to be able to describe the principal ministries in the liturgy, the major seasons of the church year and the holy days of obligation. They will also be able to recite the Nicene Creed.

*Sixth Grade
(Confirmation
One)*

The Sixth Grade curriculum (for students in grades six and above, as they begin preparation for confirmation) focuses on the Old Testament. Students will 1) develop a working knowledge of the major themes of the Old Testament; 2) explore more about Judaism and the world of the Scriptures; 3) be able to describe the links between the Old Testament and the Christian tradition.

By the end of sixth grade (Confirmation One), students will be able to identify and describe in chronological order the major events in the Old Testament and the major events in life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Seventh Grade
(Confirmation
Two)*

This year consists of two modules: Christian morality and Jesus and discipleship. The first module will help lay the foundation for a discussion about living a moral life and give the students information about the Church's guidance in moral decision-making. The second module will give a survey of the life of Jesus as it is told to us in the gospels, and also will pose the challenge of discipleship to the students. Is following Jesus, and letting that govern the choices in their lives, a decision that they are ready to make?

*Eighth Grade
(Confirmation
Three)*

The eighth grade curriculum consists of three modules: Creed, a review of Catholic teaching and immediate preparation for confirmation. The review of the Creed, what the church believes, provides a foundation to profess that belief in the sacrament of confirmation. The second half of the year focuses on the ways that the Christian life is lived out by those who are fully initiated Christians.

The Goal and Vision statement is a summary of what those who are to be confirmed should know. The foundations for religious literacy in the earlier grades along with the other elements in the curriculum provide the basis for these outcomes.

Sacrament Preparation

Students who are not baptized when they begin school join their regular grade level class. In the second year, they and their parents will be part of the Rite of Christian Initiation process, meeting on a different day, as well as attending the grade level class. Children and adults are baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil (the Saturday night before Easter Sunday.)

Students can begin the preparation for First Communion after being in the program for one year. They begin the process on grade level. If they are not in second grade when they make their First Communion, in the second year they are in the program (in grades three through six), they must attend an additional sacrament preparation class on another week night in addition to their regular grade level class during the second year.

Students can begin the preparation for confirmation in sixth grade. There is a three year sequence to prepare for Confirmation. Students must complete all three years. Seventh and eighth graders can join the confirmation program. They will begin with the Old Testament course and complete all three years.

All students who celebrate the sacraments here at St. Alphonsus are asked to attend mass regularly on Sundays. This is the best preparation for any sacrament and builds a lifelong habit of worship, which is essential to nourish our faith.



To Send Back the Registration Forms

Print out the forms out and send them by mail or bring them to the rectory office.

- A) Fill out the emergency form and sign it.
- B) Fill out one student registration form for each child you are registering.
- C) Mail the forms to Catherine Crino, St. Alphonsus, 1429 W. Wellington, Chicago, IL 60657 or drop them off at the rectory.
- D) Please locate and have available each child's baptism certificate, if he/she is baptized. Please include it with your registration, or have it available for us in September.
- E) Tuition can be paid on the first night of class. You may pay all in the fall or half in the fall and half in the winter. We accept cash, checks and Mastercard and Visa.

Questions or concerns? Contact Cathy Crino at ccrino@aol.com or at 773-525-0709, ext. 111.

Vision for Catechized Students by the end of eighth grade at St. Alphonsus:

Know the meanings of the following and why they are important concepts:

Faith.
Grace.
Being a Christian.

Know the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds and be able to explain the articles in them.

Will know the Nicene Creed by heart.
Will know that God as the creator of the universe.
Will know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, true God and true man.
Will know Jesus' redemptive action of dying and rising for our salvation from sin and death.
Will know that the Spirit is the gift of the Father and the Son.
Will know that the Spirit dwells in and enlivens the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.
Will know our place in the communion of saints with all believers and Mary, the mother of God.
Will know that our destiny is to be risen with Christ and alive with God forever.
Will know what the church teaches about heaven, hell, purgatory and the last judgment.

Be familiar with the Bible and be able to use it for study and prayer.

Be able to distinguish between the Old and New Testaments.
Be able to locate books of the Bible and specific passages.
Be able to tell briefly about the major stories in the Old Testament:

- Creation
- Call of Abraham and covenant with his descendants
- Story of the tribes of Israel, including the story of Joseph
- Captivity in Egypt and liberation in the Exodus under Moses
- The giving of the Law
- The establishment of the monarchy and the stories of David and Solomon
- The importance of the Temple at Jerusalem
- The events of the Exile and return

Be able to tell briefly the story of Jesus' birth, preaching, healings, death and resurrection.

Be able to recount specific stories from Jesus' ministry (including, but not limited to)

- His baptism by John
- Temptations
- Call of disciples
- Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes
- Preaching the necessity of following him to the cross and resurrection
- Miracle of the loaves and the fishes

Healing of the blind and lame
Prodigal Son
Lost sheep/ lost coin
Lazarus and the rich man
Parable of the Talents
Last Supper - institution of the Eucharist and the washing of the feet
Agony in the Garden
Trial and conviction
Crucifixion
Resurrection and resurrection appearances
Ascension

Be able to tell specific stories from the Acts of the Apostles and the life of Paul:

Pentecost
Journeys of apostles to tell the news of Jesus
Call of Paul
Paul's journeys to various cities and the writing of his letters

Be able to locate the psalms, know how they are used for prayer in the church and have practice using them.

Know and be able to articulate that s/he is a member of the Roman Catholic church.

Will know that the marks of the church are that it is one, holy, Catholic and apostolic and what each of these mean.

Will know the imagery of the church as the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Bride of Christ, the Body of Christ and the People of God.

Will know that the vocation of every Christian believer is to become holy.

Will be able to describe how the holy Spirit is active in the church.

Will be able to describe the church's role to worship God, to spread the Gospel, to serve the world.

Will be able to describe how one prepares for ministry in the church.

Know the name of the parish and archdiocese s/he belongs to.

Know the name of the pastor of the parish and ordinary of the archdiocese.

Know the name of the Pope.

Will be able to describe the respective roles of the Pope, archbishop, pastor.

Will know that the bishops are the successors to the apostles.

Will be able to name the other members of the pastoral staff of the parish.

Will know how the parish is connected to the larger church.

Will know how a Pope is chosen.

Will know how the Roman Catholic Church is related to

Eastern Rite churches

Orthodox churches

Protestant churches
Judaism
Islam
Other faiths
non-believers

Will know what is meant by the 'communion of saints.'

Will be able to describe his/her participation in the communion of saints.

Will be able to describe Mary's place in the communion of saints.

Will be able to describe the church's faith in each of these doctrines about Mary:

Mother of God

Immaculate Conception

Virginal conception of Jesus

Assumption

Will be able to describe the traditions surrounding the apparitions of Mary at

Guadalupe

Lourdes

Fatima

Will be able to explain how and why we ask for the intercession of the saints, particularly Mary.

Will be able to explain the devotion to Mary as Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Will be able to briefly tell about who the following saints/heroes in the faith are and their importance:

Abraham and Sarah

Isaac and Rebecca

Jacob, Leah and Rachel

Joseph

Moses

Miriam

Aaron

David

Solomon

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Elizabeth and

Zechariah

Joseph

John the Baptist

Peter

Mary Magdalene

Paul

James

John

Perpetua and Felicity

Martin of Tours

Augustine

Francis and Clare

Dominic

Elizabeth of Hungary

Ignatius of Loyola

Teresa of Avila

Thomas More

Vincent de Paul

Martin de Porres

Isaac Jogues and John
Brebeuf

Kateri Tekawitha

Alphonsus

Elizabeth Seton

Pierre Toussaint

Katharine Drexel

Therese of Lisieux

Francis Cabrini

Maximilian Kolbe

Pope John XXIII

Dorothy Day

Mother Teresa

Pope John Paul II

Their own patron saints
for baptism and
confirmation

Be familiar with the liturgy of the church:

- Know the basic structure of the mass: Gathering rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Dismissal.
- Know the responses, prayers and acclamations for the mass.
- Know a basic repertoire of sung responses.
- Know the four main seasons of the church year: when they occur, what they celebrate, how they are marked by the church.
- Will know how Catholic Christians observe Lent.
- Will know the laws about abstinence and fasting.
- Know what Ordinary time is.
- Know what the lectionary is and that we read the Scriptures in a 3-year cycle.
- Be able to name the main 'furniture' in the church: altar, ambo, font, tabernacle, shrines.
- Be able to name the vestments worn by the priest and/or deacon.
- Knows what the following ministers do during the liturgy:
 - Cantor
 - Lector
 - Server
 - Minister of Communion
- Know the regulations of the church about worship on Sundays and holy days.
- Know the holy days of obligation in the United States.

Will be able to describe the sacramental life of the church:

- Will be able to list the sacraments from memory.
- Will be able to describe the outward sign and the inner grace of each sacrament.
- Will be able to describe what it means to be a fully initiated Catholic.
- Will be able to list the sacraments of initiation.
- Will be able to describe what happens to us in baptism.
- Will be able to describe what the church means by Original Sin.
- Will know who is able to baptize and how.
- Will know the difference between infant baptism and those over the age of seven.
- Will be able to describe what we say we believe in order to be baptized or to renew our baptism.
- Will be able to describe what happens to us in Confirmation.
- Will know who is able to confirm and how.
- Will be able to list the gifts of the Holy Spirit and discuss how they are used in everyday life.
- Will be able to list the fruits of the Holy Spirit and discuss how they can be seen in everyday life.
- Will be able to describe what the church believes about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.
- Will be able to define 'transubstantiation.'
- Will know the meaning of the word 'Eucharist.'
- Will be able to describe how one worthily receives the Eucharist.
- Will be able to describe the effects of the Eucharist in the life of a Christian.
- Will be able to describe how we show reverence for the Eucharist.

Will know the position of the Catholic church about intercommunion with non-Catholics.

Will be able to describe why sacramental confession is necessary.

Will be able to describe the steps in celebrating the sacrament of penance.

Will be able to describe how to prepare to celebrate the sacrament of penance.

Will be able to describe other ways that less serious sins can be forgiven.

Will be able to describe the sacrament of the anointing of the sick and when it is celebrated.

Will be able to explain why marriage is a sacrament.

Will know that the couple are the ministers of the sacrament.

Will be able to describe how Catholics marry and the requirements to marry.

Will be able to describe what Catholics believe about the indissolubility of marriage.

Will be able to describe what an annulment is and why it is sometimes granted.

Will be able to describe the three levels of holy orders.

Will be able to describe what a deacon, a priest and a bishop do.

Will be able to describe how one prepares for ordination.

Will be able to describe how one is ordained.

Have an appreciation of and be able to engage in the prayer of the church and traditional devotions.

Will know the following prayers by heart:

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Hail, Holy Queen

an Act of Contrition

a prayer to say following communion (either the Anima Christi, Prayer of St. Francis, or Take Lord, Receive)

Magnificat

Benedictus

The prayer to the Holy Spirit

Will know how to engage in the Examen at the end of the day.

Will know how to say the Rosary and be able to list each of the mysteries.

Will know how to pray the Stations of the Cross and will be able to identify each one.

Will know the structure of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer of the church.

Will be able to list five common sacramentals and be able to describe how they aid us in prayer.

Will be able to describe why a Christian prays daily.

Will be able to describe the moral tradition of the church:

Will have memorized the Ten Commandments.

Will have memorized the Beatitudes.
Will have memorized the precepts of the church.
Will have memorized the “Law of Love” and be able to relate this to the Commandments.
Will have memorized the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and can give examples of putting each one into practice.

Will be able to describe the moral life in terms of living as a disciple of Christ.
Will be able to describe the moral life in terms of virtues to be lived, not just evils to be avoided.
Will be able to define a grave (mortal) and venial sin and give examples.
Will be able to describe the role of the Spirit in helping to keep us from sin.
Will be able to define the concept of conscience and discuss how one forms one’s conscience.
Will be able to give examples of using one’s conscience in moral decision making.
Will be able to discuss the relationship between personal action and one’s life in the community.
Will be able to discuss the responsibility of each person for the good of the social order.

Will be able to discuss the first commandment and be able to give examples of ‘false idols’ in our society.

Will be able to discuss the second commandment and be able to give examples of the misuse of God’s or Jesus’ name.

Will be able to discuss the third commandment:

- Will know what keeping the Sabbath means for Jews.
- Will know why Christians worship on Sundays.
- Will be able to discuss what it means to keep Sundays holy.

Will be able to discuss the fourth commandment:

- What it means to respect one’s parents.
- What it means to respect other lawful authority, including government.
- What the obligations are for each person to care for the physical and emotional needs of family members.

Will be able to discuss the fifth commandment:

- Why human life is so valued by God.
- Why we have no right to take human life through abortion, euthanasia, suicide or assisted suicide, capital punishment.
- Why war is always a failure and due to human sin. Why Christians are called to be peacemakers.
- Why Christians are obligated to help reduce violence.

Will be able to discuss the sixth commandment:

- Why sexuality is a valuable gift from God.
- The ends of sexual expression: procreation of children and intimate giving between spouses.
- Why all sexual expression is reserved for marriage.

Why pornography, promiscuity and lack of respect for the sexuality of others damages the human community.

Will be able to discuss the seventh commandment:

Why we respect the possessions of others.

Why we need to pay taxes in order to finance common services in our community and nation.

Why everyone is entitled to work for their living.

Why we need to give adequate support for those who can't care for themselves or are unable to find work.

Why we have an obligation to exercise good stewardship of our own money.

Why we have an obligation to share with the poor.

Why we have an obligation to care for the earth.

Will be able to discuss the eighth commandment:

Why honesty is a virtue and lying is a sin.

Why slander and gossip are injurious to other people.

Why we are obliged to speak the truth, even when others don't want to hear it.

Will be able to discuss the ninth and tenth commandments:

Why envy and greed distort the human spirit.

Why envy and greed cause a distorted sense of what one needs.

The difference between what one needs and what one wants.