



91 N. Park Street
Dahlonega, GA 30533
www.stlukercc.org



Dear Parents,

By enrolling your child in the St. Luke Parish School of Religion, you are taking an important step forward in the truth that the family is the domestic church. Pope St. John Paul II said the seeds of our faith are planted in the family. Your moral responsibility as parents is to see that your children are trained in the faith and teachings of the Church. In sum, your role is to get your children to heaven. The clergy and lay instructors never replace your role, nor relieve you of this high calling you have received. Parents must oversee the spiritual growth of their child in the area of faith and morals.

Frequent reception of the sacraments by Sunday Mass (and daily Mass where possible) and frequent confession are cornerstones of a healthy spiritual life. Along with daily prayer and reading scripture, they keep our interior life going. These practices show with our actions where our hearts lie - in the passing things of this world, or in the God who loves us, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

An old cliché says, a picture is worth a thousand words. Pope St. John Paul II remarked that an image that stood out in his youth was getting up in the middle of the night and seeing his father on his knees praying (his mother had died years before). The saint said that experience of his youth was his first seminary. Once again my dear parents, God's plan is that you take care very well of the faith of your family. The one thing necessary is making disciples of Christ. Our children are also the future of the Church. Let's give our next generation of Catholics the tools necessary to know and defend their faith and become saints.

I extend my priestly blessing to you all, and with warm regards,

Fr. Matt

**PARISH SCHOOL OF
RELIGION**
—for—
Grades Pre-K through 10
**First Reconciliation/
First Communion /
Confirmation**
Sundays, 9:15 – 10:30 AM

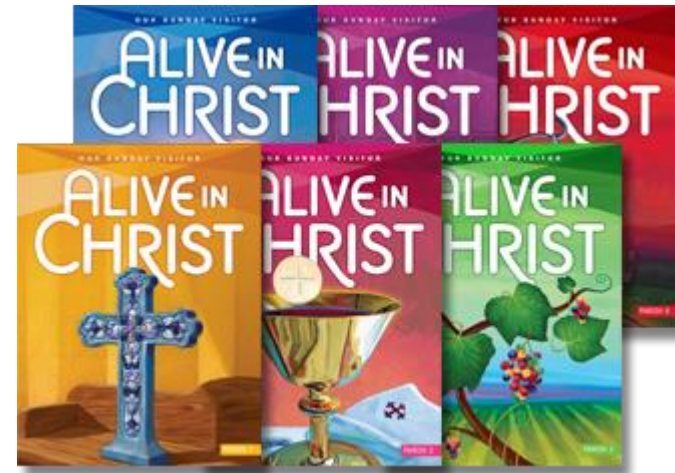
2019-2020
POLICIES
&
INFORMATION

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



- Our Level 2 Atrium for the 2019-2020 school year will catechize our 1st and 2nd graders
- Our Level 1 Atrium (entering it's 6th year) will catechize our Pre-K and Kindergarten children
- The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a program based on the belief that young children already have a relationship with God by virtue of their Baptism. The Holy Spirit works through the catechists to nurture this love of God in these children.
- The Montessori method is a proven educational approach that emphasizes independence, freedom within limits, and respect of the child's individual ability and development. CGS uses this Montessori method to present Scripture and the sacraments to children.
- The work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is done in a specially-prepared environment called an atrium.
- Through wondering questions and hands-on material, the children dive deep into the meanings of the Scriptures and prayers. These presentations they can repeat on their own during their work time.

If you have questions regarding the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, check out www.cgsusa.org. For questions regarding this program at St. Luke's, please contact Kelley Pepper at (706) 864-4779, ext. 7004 or kpeffer@stlukescc.org.



St. Luke's is proud to introduce that we will now be using Our Sunday Visitor's *Alive in Christ* religion curriculum for Grades 3rd through 8th!

- **Jesus Christ is at the Center:** *Alive in Christ* is intentional in its focus on the life, mission, and saving work of Jesus Christ. This lays the foundation for a lifelong relationship with Jesus.
- **Building Knowledge of, and Reverence for, Sacred Scripture:** Sacred Scripture from both the Old and New Testament is presented in ways that encourage students to learn about the people and stories of the Bible and listen to the voice of God.
- **Comprehensive Presentation of Catholic Teaching:** *Alive in Christ* provides a comprehensive and systematic presentation of the Catholic faith. Key themes of Catholic teaching are repeated each year through a grade-level lens, building on the child's knowledge of the faith at each developmental stage.
- **Unique and Effective Pedagogy:** Mirroring the divine pedagogy, each lesson begins with God's invitation through Sacred Scripture and leads children to reflect on His Word, study it in Sacred Tradition, and respond with a lived faith.
- **Complete and Purposeful Approach to Prayer and Worship:** At every grade level, *Alive in Christ* intentionally incorporates the 5 basic forms of prayer and provides complete lessons on Church feasts and seasons.
- **Tools for Involving Families in Children's Faith Formation:** The "Family + Faith" page and an extensive website give families the tools they need to know what their children are learning, talk about their Catholic faith, and recognize ways they can apply it to their daily lives.

Policies

MISSION STATEMENT

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of *evangelizing their children* (2225).” It is the mission and purpose of the PSR program to serve the parishioners of St. Luke by assisting and empowering parents in carrying out this awesome responsibility. **The work of the staff and volunteers of St. Luke’s PSR is to assist you, not replace you.**

MASS ATTENDANCE

Mass attendance is the essential and central part of passing on the faith. **St. Luke’s Parish School of Religion complements, but does not replace, your children’s participation at the Sunday liturgy with their family.** We encourage and support your commitment to make sure your children attend Mass as well as classes and Wednesday night programs. Doing this will nourish and strengthen your family’s faith and understanding. Discuss with your family how you will schedule attending Sunday Mass as a family and also faithfully attend Religious Education classes and Wednesday night programs.

INVESTMENT IN OUR PROGRAM

Here at St. Luke’s we recognize that our program can only be successful in reaching all with the love of Christ with the help and support of our parents. **It is expected that, for every family whose children are enrolled in our Sunday morning classes, at least one adult is to serve in some capacity.**

FEES

Fees collected for PSR classes are for materials and supplies and are a one-time only fee (no other money is collected throughout the school year.) Scholarships and payment plans are available. These accommodations need to be discussed with and approved by Fr. John.

HOME STUDY

The Archdiocese of Atlanta allows for religious education to occur in a Catholic school, a parish school of religion, or a home school. If you are interested in more information regarding the home school option, just ask Kelley.

STUDENT ARRIVAL

Children Pre-K through 5th Grade must be escorted to their classrooms by a parent or guardian. Parents are encouraged to escort their children from 6th through 8th, but it is not required. **Students MUST be in class and seated by 9:15 AM each Sunday.** It is disruptive to the entire class when children arrive late.

STUDENT DISMISSAL

To ensure the safety of our children, we must require that a parent/guardian of children Pre-K through 5th grades park their cars and come into the building to pick up their children. No Pre-K through 5th Grade child will be permitted to leave the building without an adult. Classes end at 10:30 AM. Please be here on time to pick up your child so the catechists can attend Mass.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Life as a Christian is a commitment to live by the example of Jesus Christ. This commitment includes each student’s acceptance of responsibility for his or her conduct and actions, and each student’s commitment to respect the rights of others. Students are expected to: (1) attend class regularly; (2) participate in activities and discussion; (3) respect their teachers; and (4) respect each other.

DISCIPLINE

Normal discipline problems will be handled by the catechist. If a problem becomes persistent, the student will be sent to the director. A continuing problem may necessitate a call to parents, or a request that a parent attend class with the child or face removal from the program. Disciplinary infractions include, but are not limited to: abusive language, fighting, vandalism, disrespect to the teacher or other students, stealing, or leaving the building.

DRESS

Sunday dress is to be expected. Males or females dressed immodestly will not be tolerated. Violation or infraction may result in your child being **pulled from the class or from the sacramental occasion.**

WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, classes may be cancelled. If we need to cancel classes, a group text will be sent (if a number has been provided). Also, if in doubt, check the parish website at www.stlukercc.org.

ATTENDANCE

Please make every effort to have your child attend class unless there are exceptional circumstances. In order to maintain enrollment for your child, the following attendance requirements must be met:

- 1. Your child may not have more than 5 unexcused absences or he/she will be considered withdrawn from the program***
 - 2. Your child must attend a minimum of 75% of scheduled classes to receive credit for the year.***
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PRAYER

It is in the family where our children are first introduced to the love and mercy of God. Praying and worshipping together as a family will serve well to solidify what is taught in our PSR classes. But even more effective is your prayerful example. Children who see their parents frequenting the sacraments and being active parish members will learn how to put their faith into action, which is the whole goal of St. Luke’s PSR.

Sacraments

FIRST PENANCE & FIRST COMMUNION

Preparation for these Sacraments is a 2-year cycle, typically beginning in the 1st grade, with First Communion to be received at the end of the 2nd grade year. Preparation will be during the regular 1st & 2nd Grade Religious Education Classes at St. Luke's. There is a 21 class MINIMUM attendance requirement for the required prior year (typically the 1st grade year). Also, Baptism is needed at least 3 months prior to the reception of First Penance. Parents will attend *four* special sessions for these Sacraments. **Attendance at these Parents' Meetings is mandatory if your child will be receiving these sacraments during this school year.**

Meeting #1: Sunday, Oct. 27th 9:15–10:15am
Meeting #2: Sunday, Nov. 10th 9:15-10:15am
Meeting #3: Sunday, Feb. 9th 9:15-10:15am
Meeting #4: Sunday, March 8th 9:15-10:15am

- * Sun., Mar. 9, 2020: First Penance Retreat
- * Fri., May 1, 2020 at 6 PM: First Communion Rehearsal
- * Sat., May 2, 2020 at 10 AM: First Communion Mass

Please direct any inquiries or concerns to Kelley Peffer at kpeffer@stlukercc.org or (706) 864-4779.

CONFIRMATION

Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation requires attendance in a Catholic school, a parish religious education program, or a home school religious education program for at least 2 YEARS prior to reception of the sacrament.

In the Archdiocese of Atlanta, students are to be confirmed in the 10th grade. Please contact Molly Clavenna, our Youth Minister, at mkclavenna@stlukercc.org or (706) 864-4779, ext. 7002 for additional questions.

Confirmation Prep Classes

Our 9th & 10th graders will be meeting on Sundays from 9:15-10:30am for their 2-year preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are using the *Chosen: Teen Faith Formation* curriculum put out by Ascension Press.

“Designed to offer young people a life-changing experience as they journey through their Catholic faith in all its richness and vitality, the goal is nothing short of winning over the hearts of teens and making them lifelong disciples of Christ. *Chosen* utilizes a powerful and effective methodology with lessons designed to capture teens’ attention and present the faith in new and unexpected ways. Featuring multiple dynamic presenters in visually stunning, fast-paced videos, along with fully integrated written materials for students and leaders, *Chosen* is unlike anything available in the Church today.”

Post-Confirmation. . . What Now??

We urge those teens who have already received the Sacrament of Confirmation to either deepen their faith by attending our Adult Education class in the Parish Hall during Sunday morning class time or put their faith into practice by assisting in a classroom. Please contact Kelley Peffer for more information.



Middle & High School Youth Groups

We are now a Life Teen and Edge parish! This means that we have access to the incredible resources that these two programs offer in order to help us better reach our middle and high school students so they can have a deeper relationship with Christ. Both groups meet on Wednesday nights, following the 6:00pm Mass, and go until 8:15pm. On Dinner & Doctrine nights, the groups enjoy a meal with the parish before being excused at 7:15pm. On non-Dinner and Doctrine nights, we still enjoy a meal together, but ask that parents help in providing these on a rotating schedule. **For more information, please contact our Youth Minister, Molly Clavenna, at mkclavenna@stlukercc.org or at (706) 864-4779.**