

(calendar continued)

- 12/3/11 Sacraments and Sacramentals
- 12/17/11 Traditions, traditions, and Church Tour
- 1/7/12 Mass and the Eucharist (Informal Program Evaluation)
- 1/21/12 Creed
- 2/4/12 Catholic Morality and Current Secular Beliefs
- 2/19/12 Examination of Conscience, Reconciliation, and Scriptural Basis
- 3/3/12 Mary, the Communion of Saints, and Prayer
- 3/17/12 Discipleship, Now what do I do?
- 4/14/12 Triduum, What's that?
- 4/21/12 "Family Feud"

Several other dates are set aside for the actual reception of the Sacraments

If more than one session is missed, the process becomes a two-year program, with the child receiving the Sacraments at the end of the second year.



Christian Beginnings

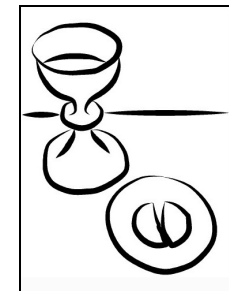
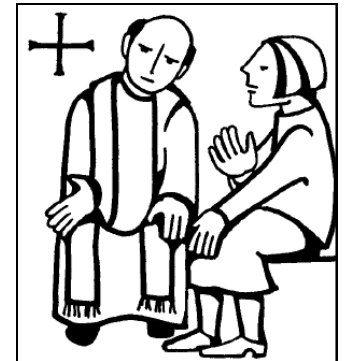
A Sacramental Program for children in 3rd grade or above for receiving Baptism, Reconciliation, or First Communion

Saint Margaret Mary Catholic Church

111 South Hubbard Street
Algonquin, Illinois 60102
www.saintmargaretmary.org

Parish Office: (847)-658-7625

The Christian Beginnings Program



Baptism, Reconciliation,
and First Communion
for Older Children

Have your older children fallen behind in receiving the Sacraments or Religious Education?

There are many reasons why a child may miss receiving Religious Education or the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation or First Communion; for such circumstances, we have the Christian Beginnings Program.

What is Christian Beginnings?

Christian Beginnings is a program designed to get older children back on track with religious education and receiving the Sacraments with children their own age. We welcome you and your children! If children are to accept the gift of the Catholic faith, the parents must participate in the formation of that faith.

Christian Beginnings is a family process designed to instruct both parents and older children about the faith. Since each family is unique, the length of the program depends on need. At the end of the program, the older child will be Baptized (if necessary) and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Christian Beginnings is designed to enable the parents to “keep the faith” and “hand it on” to their children. It is both a fun and informative program for all those involved!

To register, or for more information, call the Parish Office at (847)-658-7625

Why is the Program Needed?

The Church teaches that children over the age of reason (about age 7) cannot be baptized through the normal ceremony for infants. The Church requires a period of instruction to lead these individuals to the Catholic faith prior to Baptism.

At the Second Vatican Council, the Church acknowledged that Catholic parents are “first and primary teachers of the faith for their children.” It also stated that parents must be instructed in the faith, so that they are capable of passing on this faith to their children.

Which Children are Eligible?

1. Unbaptized children in 3rd grade or above
2. Baptized children in 3rd grade or above who have not received First Reconciliation or First Communion and/or have not attended Religious Education Classes

What is Required?

1. Registration at the Parish Office
2. An interview with a staff member to determine the individual religious education needs of the family
3. Eligible children will attend age-appropriate classes, while parents attend the parents sessions, held simultaneously
4. The child and at least one Catholic parent’s/guardian at attendance at all meetings is required

Where and When are the Sessions?

Christian Beginnings meets on Saturday mornings from 9:30-11:00AM. Parent and child sessions are held simultaneously.

- **Elementary children meet in Room 5.**
- **Jr. High youth meet in the Youth Ministry Office**
- **Parents Meet in Room 4.**

All sessions are in the Ministry Center (the building immediately east of the Church)

Christian Beginnings Calendar for 2011-2012

9/10/11	Introduction to Christian Beginnings
9/24/11	Old Testament History PT 1, Creation and the Covenants
10/8/11	Old Testament History PT 2, Hebrew Traditions
10/22/11	Who is Jesus Christ? Human? Divine? Both?
11/5/11	New Testament: Gospels and Letters
11/19/11	Church History

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