



JOURNEY OF FAITH

2023-24 Registration and Program Information

Journey of Faith is for everyone in the parish—youth in grades K-12 *and their parents*, and all adults in the parish. We are pleased to present this year's schedule and topics along with information about our program to assist you in registration. Please fill out the attached registration form and return it to us by the deadline. If you prefer to register online, please contact us for the link and your ID#.

CONFIRMATION FAMILIES (youth in grades 10 & 11), PLEASE NOTE:

- **Eleventh graders** who have already begun their Confirmation preparation in 10th grade will be Confirmed on October 29, 2023. **YOU NEED NOT REGISTER** or pay the fee.
- This Fall's **10th graders** will prepare for Confirmation, to be celebrated in the fall of 2024. Please register your 10th grader for Confirmation and pay the Confirmation fee.

Please read this additional information carefully before filling out your registration form:

- **Deadline for registration is Monday, July 31, 2023.** Any registrations received after this date are subject to late fees, and preferences regarding session or location will not be guaranteed after this date.
- Wednesday Session 1 is scheduled at both the Big Lake and Becker locations. Wednesday Session 2 is scheduled **ONLY AT THE BECKER LOCATION**. Please indicate your preference as to location; these preferences might not be honored for late registrations.
- Please also complete the section regarding registration for your children who will be preparing for and celebrating First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation this year. All youth in Sacramental Preparation processes **MUST** attend all in-person sessions. Any missed sessions will be required to be made up.
- **Graduated fee schedule:** check the registration form for an early bird break (**by and including July 20**) on registration fees, as well as **late fees** that apply **beginning on August 1**. Please note that the family fee is waived for catechists; Sacrament preparation fees are separate from family fees.
- **NON-MEMBERS** of Mary of the Visitation wishing to register for Journey of Faith will pay higher registration fees; these families will only be placed into classes once all member families have been assigned. Families enrolling into Sacrament Preparation programs must be members of Mary of the Visitation.
- Journey of Faith is for ages Kindergarten through adult; **at least one parent of youth in Kindergarten – Grade 10 must attend when their children attend**; both parents are strongly encouraged to attend.
- Sessions meet once per month for an hour and a half, and all family members will attend at the same time on the same day.
- All registered families will receive a letter in early September indicating their schedule for the year.
- No one will be refused participation for financial reasons; please contact Barb if you wish to set up a payment plan or request a fee waiver. Payment or waiving of current year fees must be satisfied by conclusion of the Journey of Faith year in order for families to participate the following year.
- Registration forms may be mailed to Mary of the Visitation (PO Box 100, Big Lake 55309), or dropped off at either location.
- Our year will begin with a Fall Kick-off celebration for registered families on **Wednesday, September 20, at 6:30 pm in BECKER**. Watch for details in your September family schedule letter.

Announcements and information regarding Journey of Faith can be found on our website (www.maryofthevisitation.org) as well as in the Sunday bulletin. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about Journey of Faith. You may reach me by calling 763-447-3339, or emailing (bolson@maryofthevisitation.org).

~Barb Olson, Director of Faith Formation

SEASONS OF



We keep time in our lives according to multiple calendars and seasons – the calendar year of January through December, as well as the school year, the fiscal year, our four seasons, and numerous sports seasons. As Catholics, we make our way through a series of church seasons, each with its own feasts and solemnities, holy days and colors. Within the cycle of a year the church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ, from the Incarnation and birth, his public ministry, his death and resurrection, and the promise of the coming of the Lord.

How can we observe and celebrate these seasons with our family and our faith community? Join us this year as we journey through the seasons of the Church year together.

OCTOBER - Introduction to the Liturgical Year and Ordinary Time

The Liturgical Year is a twelve-month cycle which celebrates and retells the life and ministry of Jesus. Celebrating the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year enables us as Catholics to deepen our faith, discover ways to live as disciples, and celebrate Jesus' presence in the life of the Church today.

NOVEMBER - All Saints and Introduction to Advent

November rushes in with the celebration of All Saints Day, continues with All Souls Day, and concludes the current liturgical year with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. November leads into the season of Advent, during which we prepare for and anticipate the coming of the Messiah.

DECEMBER - Preparing for Christmas

As we immerse ourselves in the season of Advent, families will gather together to prepare for the beautiful feast of Christmas in order to more fully celebrate the birth of our Savior! Families will share prayer, activities, and fellowship.

JANUARY - Epiphany and Winter Ordinary Time

The Christmas season concludes with the visit of the Magi on Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord, through which Jesus is revealed to the entire world. We then move into the shortest period of Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Year, the weeks between the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent.

FEBRUARY - Lent

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when the community gathers to receive ashes. During this season we focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and consider how we might more closely follow Jesus by taking up our own crosses.

MARCH - Reflecting on the Triduum

The Triduum is the greatest celebration of our Church. From Holy Thursday through the Easter Vigil, we commemorate the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. We will walk with him from the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper through his suffering and crucifixion to his Resurrection on Easter morning.

APRIL - Easter and Summer Ordinary Time

The celebration of Easter continues through Pentecost, during which time Jesus appears to his disciples and other followers before he ascends into Heaven. How can we continue to keep the celebration of Easter alive, before we move into the long Ordinary Time of summer?

2023-24 SCHEDULE

Kick-Off Celebration

September 20 (Wed), 6:30pm, Becker

SESSION 1 (Becker & Big Lake)

6:30-8:00 pm (Wed)

October 4

November 8

December 6—FAMILY SESSION

January 10

February 7

March 6

April 3



SESSION 2 (BECKER ONLY)

6:30-8:00 pm (Wed)

October 11

November 15

December 13—FAMILY SESSION

January 17

February 21

March 13

April 10

End of Year Celebration

April 17 (Wed), 6:30pm, Big Lake