



**St. Stephen, Martyr Parish**

**Blaze, Lifeteen &  
Sacramental Preparation  
Schedules**

**2011 – 2012**

**Elementary, Middle School, High School and Adults**

Ladies & Gentlemen,

On behalf of the parish staff and your fellow parishioners I would like to welcome you to another exciting year of exploring our Catholic faith through a variety of programs: educational, outreach, ministerial and social which are described in this booklet. Through our membership in the community of St. Stephen, Martyr, our support of the parish with our time, talents and treasure and our participation in its various programs, we not only embrace the potential of our individual and family growth but we also contribute to that of each other. Thank you for your on-going support and involvement.

Yours in the Trinity,

Fr. Brian

This booklet is a compilation of current dates and schedules for youth and child catechesis for our parish of St. Stephen, Martyr. The information herein is general and may prompt further questions. Please contact us at the parish by phone at 421-7416 or by e-mail [cathy@ssmrcc.org](mailto:cathy@ssmrcc.org) for information about a specific program or situation.

We are very blessed and excited about our Blaze catechesis. Parents are the first teachers of their children and the primary instructors in our faith. Adults are expected to attend BLAZE sessions with their children. Blaze is the usual process of Religious Education at St. Stephen.

We look forward to your involvement and your help with this important ministry of our parish.

Cathy Barrick, Suzanne Flach  
Christian Formation Department

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION FEES**

### **Blaze and Lifeteen**

Before 9/5/11: \$25 per child and one \$25 fee for all adults  
with a family maximum of \$100

After 9/5/11: \$40 per child and one \$40 fee for all adults  
with a family maximum of \$160

### **First Reconciliation Textbook(s)**

### **First Eucharist Textbook(s)**

**\$50**

**Collected at the October Parent Meeting**

### **Confirmation**

**\$125**

**Collected upon registration**

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*No one will be denied Christian Formation classes  
or materials due to financial reasons.*

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Christian Formation

**BLAZE**

***Schedule for grades K – 8<sup>th</sup> unless noted otherwise***

<b>September 2011 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	Sun 18th 12:45 – 2:15	Sun 18th 2:30 – 4:00	Mon 19th 6:15 – 7:45
<b>September 26th Grades 3 - 5</b>	Monday 6:15pm – 7:45pm Additional Grade 3, 4, and 5 Session (NO PARENTS)		
<b>October 2011 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	Sun 2nd 12:45 – 2:15	Sun 2nd 2:30 – 4:00	Mon 3rd 6:15 – 7:45
<b>October 24th Grades 3 - 5</b>	Monday 6:15pm – 7:45pm Additional Grade 3, 4, and 5 Session (NO PARENTS)		
<b>October 2011 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Slime Time 6pm K – 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Participants MS/HS Helpers		
<b>November 2011 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	Sun 6th 12:45 – 2:15	Sun 6th 2:30 – 4:00	Mon 7th 6:15 – 7:45
<b>December 2011 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	Sun 4th 12:45 – 2:15	Sun 4th 2:30 – 4:00	
<b>December 5th Grades 3 - 5</b>	Monday 6:15pm – 7:45pm Additional Grade 3, 4, and 5 Session (NO PARENTS)		
<b>December 2011 K-12<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Night in Bethlehem 6pm experience the Christmas Story as if you were there		
<b>January 2012 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	Sun 8th 12:45 – 2:15	Sun 8th 2:30 – 4:00	Mon 9th 6:15 – 7:45
<b>January 23rd Grades 3 - 5</b>	Monday 6:15pm – 7:45pm Additional Grade 3, 4, and 5 Session (NO PARENTS)		
<b>February 2012 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	Sun 5th 12:45 – 2:15	Sun 5th 2:30 – 4:00	Mon 6th 6:15 – 7:45
<b>February 20th Grades 3 - 5</b>	Monday 6:15pm – 7:45pm Additional Grade 3, 4, and 5 Session (NO PARENTS)		
<b>March 2012 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	Sun 4th 12:45 – 2:15	Sun 4th 2:30 – 4:00	Mon 5th 6:15 – 7:45
<b>March 2012 K-12<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Living Stations 4pm		
<b>March 2012 K-12<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Journey to the Cross 2pm A step by step Journey with Jesus		
<b>March 26<sup>th</sup> Grades 3 - 5</b>	Monday 6:15pm – 7:45pm Additional Grade 3, 4, and 5 Session (NO PARENTS)		
<b>April 2012 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	Sun 22nd 12:45 – 2:15	Sun 22nd 2:30 – 4:00	Mon 23rd 6:15 – 7:45
<b>May 2012 K-8<sup>th</sup> &amp; Parents</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Crowning of Mary and Picnic 12:30pm		



**The following pages chart the  
Curriculum for:**

**Grades K – 5<sup>th</sup>**

(classwork and homework)

(Catholic traditions to learn)

**Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**

(classroom topics)

(Catholic traditions to learn)

**Grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

(classroom topics)

(Catholic traditions to learn)



## Curriculum for K - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

<b>Date</b>	<b>Classwork</b>	<b>Homework</b>
Sept 18/19 2011	Unit 1 Revelation	Complete rest of Unit 1
Sept 26 Additional Grades 3 - 5	MARY and ROSARY	
Oct 2/3 2011	Unit 2 Trinity	Complete rest of Unit 2
Oct 24 Additional Grades 3 - 5	SAINTS and SOULS	
Nov 6/7 2011	Unit 3 Jesus Christ	Complete rest of Unit 3
Dec 4 2011	Advent Session	
Dec 5 Additional Grades 3 - 5	ADVENT	
Jan 8/9 2012	Unit 4 The Church	Complete rest of Unit 4
Jan 23 Additional Grades 3 - 5	BIBLE EXPLORING	
Feb 5/6 2012	Unit 5 Morality	Complete rest of Unit 5
Feb 20 Additional Grades 3 - 5	WHO'S WHO...POPE, BISHOPS, PRIESTS	
Mar 4/5 2012	Unit 6 Sacraments	Complete rest of Unit 6
Mar 26 Additional Grades 3 - 5	LENT	
April 22/23 2012	Unit 7 Kingdom of God	Complete rest of Unit 7

## We Learn Our Tradition ... We are Catholics (grades K - 5)

Goals for learning our traditions (located in the back of your books)

Learn by:	November	February	April
<b>K</b>	Sign of the Cross Glory Be Prayer Words of Faith A - H	Lord's Prayer Grace before Meals Words of Faith I - P	Words of Faith Q - Z
<b>1<sup>st</sup> grade</b>	Pg 206 Bible Pg 208 Creed Pg 210 Mary Pg 214 Sacraments	Pg 216 & 217 Special Things Pg 224 & 225 Colors and Seasons	Sign of Cross Lord's Prayer Hail Mary Grace before Meals All on page 230-231 Pg 234
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> grade</b>	Pg 222 Bible Pg 224 Creed	Pg 226 & 227 Sacraments Pg 232 Sacramentals	Church Seasons Pg 237 - 240 Commandments Lord's Prayer Hail Mary Glory Be Prayer
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> grade</b>	Pg 222 Bible Pg 225 Creed Pg 227 Church Pg 229 Mary	Pg 231 Order of Mass Pg 234 10 Commandments Pg 236 Examination Of Conscience	Pg 246 Rosary
<b>4<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	Pg 222 - 225 Books of the Bible Pg 226 - 227 Creed	Pg 230 - 233 Liturgical Year And Sacraments	Pg 234 Beatitudes and 10 Commandments Pg 246 Rosary
<b>5<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	Pg 222 - 227 Scripture and Creed	Pg 228- 229 Creed	Pg 234 - 235 Beatitudes, 10 Commandments

## CURRICULUM FOR GRADES 6-8

<b>BLAZE SESSION</b>	<b>CLASS TOPIC</b>	<b>GENERAL OBJECTIVE(S)</b>
September 2011	<b>MORAL DECISION MAKING</b>	To learn and understand how the Ten Commandments can guide our decisions.
October 2011	<b>NEW WORDS, SAME MASS</b>	To explore the upcoming changes to the Roman Missal. To examine why the changes are happening and where the development of the text came from, as well as familiarize the youth with some of the new words they will hear/say beginning in November 2011.
October 2011	27 <sup>th</sup> <b>SLIME TIME</b> 6pm MS/HS Helpers	Discover in a unique and multisensory way that God sent Jesus to take away our sins.
November 2011	<b>RULES, RULES, RULES</b>	To understand that morality is not about following a set of rules, but rather it is a response to God's call for us to be in a relationship with Him.
December 2011	<b>ADVENT FAMILY SESSION</b>	
December 2011	10 <sup>th</sup> <b>NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM</b> 6pm	Experience the Christmas Story as if you were there
January 2012	<b>LOVING GOD IN OUR FAMILIES</b>	To examine how we experience the love of God in our families, and how following the example of Christ can enhance their family relationships. (4 <sup>th</sup> Commandment)
February 2012	<b>LOVING GOD IN OUR SCHOOLS</b>	To examine how we experience the love of God in our friendships, and how following the example of Christ can enhance relationships with friends. (8 <sup>th</sup> Commandment)
March 2012	<b>THE GOOD SAMARITAN</b>	To understand what it means to love our neighbors, including our enemies.
March 2012	18 <sup>th</sup> <b>LIVING STATIONS</b> 4pm	Experience the Stations through acting.
March 2012	25 <sup>th</sup> <b>JOURNEY TO THE CROSS</b> 2pm	A step by step Journey with Jesus
April 2012	<b>POOR ME</b>	To understand the true purpose of wealth and material goods. To humanize the plight of the poor and the homeless. (the 10 <sup>th</sup> commandment)
May 2012	6 <sup>th</sup> <b>CROWNING OF MARY &amp; PICNIC</b> 12:30pm	

## CURRICULUM FOR GRADES 9-12

Date	Times	CLASS TOPIC	GENERAL OBJECTIVE(S)
SEPTEMBER 11, 2011	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>HANG 10</b>	To help teens live the greatest life they can through living and embracing the Ten Commandments.
OCTOBER 9, 2011	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>KILLING FIELDS</b>	To recognize the necessity of having a healthy respect for our own life and the life of others. To analyze how death is not just the end of a life, but how death can involve the tearing down of others.
OCTOBER 23, 2011	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>NEW WORDS, SAME MASS</b>	To explore the upcoming changes to the Roman Missal. To examine why the changes are happening and where the development of the text came from, as well as familiarize the teens with some of the new words they will hear/say beginning in November 2011.
OCTOBER 27 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	<b>SLIME TIME</b>	Discover in a unique and multisensory way that God sent Jesus to take away our sins.
NOVEMBER 13, 2011	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>VITA NOX</b>	To help the teens understand the history and development of the Catholic Church's social teaching. To rethink why each of us is called to be an advocate for Social Justice. To reveal how prayer and a relationship with God is foundational to our ability to treat others with dignity and respect.
DECEMBER 10 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	<b>NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM</b>	Experience the Christmas Story as if you were there.
DECEMBER 11, 2011	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>TRUE!</b>	To help teens understand that lying is more than just not telling the truth but in times when we are silent, when the truth needs to be spoken, especially when witnessing our faith.

## ....Continued for GRADES 9-12

JANUARY 22, 2012	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>STOLEN</b>	To help the teens understand that stealing is not limited to just theft but encompasses a larger range of topics. To challenge the teens to take a closer look at their lives and break any habits of stealing.
FEBRUARY 12, 2012	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>GOD'S GIFT TO...</b>	To help teens understand and respect the gift of sexuality and embrace the call to living a chaste life.
MARCH 11, 2012	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>WHO'S YOUR DADDY?</b>	To explore real and practical ways that teens can make God first in their lives in more of a daily way.
MARCH 18 <sup>th</sup>	4pm	<b>LIVING STATIONS</b>	Experience the Stations through acting.
MARCH 25 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	<b>JOURNEY TO THE CROSS</b>	A step by step Journey with Jesus.
APRIL 29, 2012	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM	<b>GLOBAL VILLAGE</b>	To explore the social dimensions of the fourth and fifth Commandments. To make teens aware of the factors that destroy the culture of life on the global level. To explore methods local service and how acting locally can have a global impact.
MAY 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm	<b>CROWNING OF MARY AND PICNIC</b>	Crowning of Mary and Blaze/Lifeteen Picnic
MAY 20, 2012	5:00 MASS – 8:15 PM		Surprise Life Night and Grand Finale!!

## **We Learn our Traditions** **(Grades 6 - 12)**

Goals for learning Catholic traditions. Most answers are in the back of the Catholic Faith Handbook. Books are available for your reference in Room 6 or may be purchased for \$20.

<b>Learn by:</b>	<b>Grades 6/7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>Grades 9 - 12</b>
<b>Nov '11</b>	<p>What are the two Great Commandments?</p> <p>Be able to recite at least 4 Beatitudes</p>	<p>The natural law is most clearly summarized in the Ten Commandments. For that reason, be able to recite and explain each of the Ten Commandments.</p>
<b>Feb '12</b>	<p>What are the 3 theological virtues?</p> <p>What are the seasons of the liturgical year?</p> <p>Name 6 holy days of obligation.</p>	<p>What are the three elements to determine the morality of our actions? How can you conduct an examination of conscience?</p>
<b>April '12</b>	<p>Describe how we pray the Rosary</p>	<p>What does it mean to have "character"?</p> <p>What are the four Cardinal Virtues?</p>



The following  
pages are

Sacramental  
Preparation  
Information



## FIRST RECONCILIATION PREPARATION

MONTH	DAY	
October	9 <sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm <b>or</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm	<b>PARENT ONLY</b> Meeting
November	5 <sup>th</sup> 9 - 10:30 am	<b>PARENT/CHILD</b> Meeting
November	19 <sup>th</sup> 9 - 10:30 am	<b>PARENT/CHILD</b> Meeting
January & February	T.B.A.	Sacrament of Reconciliation

\*\* First Reconciliation Preparation book(s) will be distributed at parent only meetings. See front cover for reconciliation book fees.

## FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION

MONTH	DAY	
October	9 <sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm <b>or</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm	<b>PARENT ONLY</b> Meeting
March	10 <sup>th</sup> 9am - 11:00am	<b>PARENT/CHILD</b> Meeting
March	24 <sup>th</sup> 9am - 11:00am	<b>PARENT/CHILD</b> Meeting
April	21 <sup>th</sup> 9am - 12:00pm	<b>PARENT/CHILD</b> Retreat/Rehearsal
April	28 <sup>th</sup> 5pm Mass 29 <sup>th</sup> 9am Mass 29 <sup>th</sup> 11am Mass 29 <sup>th</sup> 5pm Mass	Celebration of First Eucharist

\*\*\* First Eucharist Preparation book(s) will be distributed in February. See front cover for Eucharist book fees.

# Confirmation

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ for the conferral of grace and the strengthening of the union between individual souls and God. The delivery of holy grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are achieved through the laying on of hands and/or anointing of the Confirmand. According to The Catechism of the Catholic Church Confirmation should:

- \* unite us more firmly to Christ;
- \* increase the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- \* render our bond with the Church more perfect;
- \* give us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

The Diocese of Richmond has implemented a new confirmation process and program which began in the 2010-2011 school year. St. Stephen's offers three different class schedules to choose from. You can choose to attend either summer classes, fall classes or spring classes. Prior to registration, the candidate and parent(s) must attend an inquiry meeting to discern their readiness and disposition for sacramental preparation. Contact Suzanne if you have a teenager going into at least the 10<sup>th</sup> grade who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## What is Youth Ministry?

Youth Ministries consists of programming and spiritual development for students in grades 6-12. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to fully participate in any and all programs that we offer. Some of our programs are age specific and we try to strike a balance between fellowship, mission and education. Friends, whether Catholic or not, are always expected and welcomed! A calendar of upcoming events is published weekly within the Youth Ministry bulletin insert, complete with times and locations. We ask that you PLEASE drop off and pick up on time for these events. We also have a bulletin board in the education hallway, a facebook page, and frequent updates and announcements sent via e-mail – make sure all of your family's e-mail addresses are current with Suzanne Flach.

## Joining Youth Ministry

You do not need to register or sign up for “Youth Ministry” – we have a large and fast moving revolving door! However, you do have to sign up and register for events so we know how many to prepare for and so we are able to contact you in the event of a cancelation. But as far as an official registration to become involved in Youth Ministry – there is no such thing! Some teens come to everything we offer, some teens only come to events when their schedule allows.

Watch the bulletin for actual dates and times to join us for any and all of the following Special Events:

- Bowling & Pizza
- Camping & Hiking
- Busch Gardens Catholic Youth & Families Day with Diocese of Richmond & Arlington
- Laser Quest
- Holiday Parties
- Ice Skating
- Trips to other churches and cathedrals
- Trip to the Beach
- Speakers
- Variety Show
- International Dinner
- Super Bowl Party
- Kayaking
- Souper Bowl of Caring
- Food Fast
- Lock-Ins
- Middle School Youth Rally
- Catholic Heart Work Camp
- World Youth Day
- Stubenville Youth Conference
- Diocesan Youth Conference

### **Discovery Retreat**

A special diocesan peer-ministered retreat for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders! It deals with discovering one's identity and that of the Lord through: talks, small group interaction and community-building experiences. It is based on the steps of evangelization and helps the young person know Jesus in faith!

### **Christian Awakening Retreat**

A special diocesan peer-ministered retreat for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders! The youth of this retreat community come to know and experience Christ, and to see him in themselves and others. They're invited to look at ways of serving others and becoming better, more fully committed Christians.

### **Antioch Retreat**

"It was at Antioch that believers were first called Christians." (Acts 11:26). Antioch is a parish based retreat program also led by peer ministers. Antioch is most appropriate for 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders. It offers teens an encounter with Jesus and an experience of His church within their own culture. Because this is a parish based ministry, there is the valuable ingredient of continuity with all of the attendant opportunities for growth in Christian community, ongoing peer ministry, and assimilation of their treasured gifts into the whole parish faith community.

### **Music Ministry**

We are always looking for musicians!! We need musicians for youth masses, regular masses, special events...you name it!!! Without music the world is quiet and boring!!! Come share your talent and offer praise to Jesus through this unique ministry.

### **Martyrs Messengers**

We have a very active and involved drama troop called Martyrs Messengers here at St. Stephen, and we are under the direction of Valerie Klaus and Renee Cunningham. We put on special performances such as dinner theatres. We need you to join us!!!

### **Holy C.O.W's**

Catholics Out Working. We meet at St. Stephen approximately one Saturday a month for service opportunities around our community such as working at the Union Mission, the area Food Bank, nursing homes, and for service to the parish and parishioners of St. Stephen. We can help with yard work, minor home repairs and general upkeep, anything you may need! If you have a service request or idea, or know of someone who may need our help (parishioners or not, it doesn't matter!), please let us know! We would like to break a record of hours volunteered in service to our community this year!

### **Steubenville Summer Conference**

Powerful liturgies, dynamic talks, and engaging worship: Life Teen Steubenville Conferences offer the ultimate Catholic experience for high school teens to encounter Christ in His Sacraments and in His Church! About 2,000 – 3,000 HS students attend each of the conferences offered during the summer months at Franciscan University at Steubenville in Ohio.

### **Catholic Heart Work Camp**

Through the CHWC program, campers are called to share the love of Jesus and serve the neglected, brokenhearted and marginalized in any way needed. The primary goals of CHWC are to inspire participants to serve in their local communities, to empower participants to live as disciples of Christ through serving others and to foster the spiritual growth of each participant through the sacraments, Catholic faith sharing and prayer.



For further

Youth Ministry

information

contact Suzanne at

[suzanne@ssmrcc.org](mailto:suzanne@ssmrcc.org)



**visit the Confirmation  
website at:**

<http://ssmrcc.org/confirmation.aspx>

**visit the Youth Ministry  
interactive online calendar at:**

[http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/  
calendar.aspx?ci=L6J4I3I3K5K5O9L6I3](http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=L6J4I3I3K5K5O9L6I3)



visit us on Facebook at:

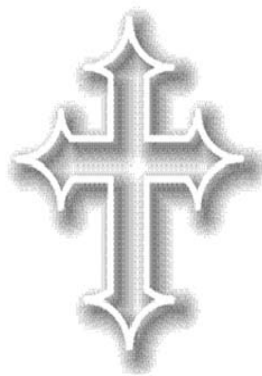
[http://www.facebook.com/  
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## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If we need to cancel any of our classes, there will be a mass email, a message on the office phone, or signs on the entrance to the building to let families know there are no classes.





**SSMRCC**  
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

