

**Our Lady of Victory  
2024-2025 School Year  
Religious Ed Programs**

**Theme: Our Hope is in the Lord!**



**In Person Classes Offered:**

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – 8:55am – 9:50am on Sundays**

**Located in the Atrium in Victory Hall (Church)**

**For 4–5-year-old (who may not be attending Kindergarten)**

**Class size limited to 16 children**

**Class begins on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a Montessori-based faith formation program for Pre-K children ages 4 and 5 years old. This hands-on program, in a specially prepared environment called the “Atrium,” nurtures and educates the whole child in the ways of the Catholic faith. It expands the understanding of Scripture and Liturgy with the use of many sensory materials including the infancy narrative figures, a raised surface map of the land of Israel, a model altar, and a model-size baptismal font, to name a few. This concrete method of presenting the Faith is similar to the way the Church teaches us through the sacraments, holy water, incense, and statues.

**Religious Education for Kindergarten – 8:55am – 9:50am on Sundays**

**Location in the Parish Life Center lower-level classrooms**

**Class begins on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Jesus famously told his disciples not to hinder future disciples the “little children” from coming to him. Loyola Press has always taken this charge seriously. It was with the little children in mind that Finding God Kindergarten was created. This compelling program honors the spirituality of little children and their ability to learn complex concepts when presented in ways that are friendly and proven to work with 5–6-year-olds. With active learning opportunities on every page of the program, children are always engaged and fully immersed in the rich content of faith.

**Religious Education 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grades – 8:55am – 9:50am on Sundays/Location in Parish Life Center lower-level classrooms**

**Classes begin on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The perfect place to start a life of intentional discipleship is with Finding God: Our Response to God’s Gifts. Rooted in scripture, Catholic Doctrine, and Ignatian Spirituality, Finding God is a core faith formation program that helps foster a lived relationship with God through Jesus. This program is built for today’s learners, offering a new model for catechesis that embraces technology and responds to the ongoing invitation to enter a deeper relationship with God.

**6-8<sup>th</sup> Grades Middle School- Forming Missionary Disciples – 8:55am – 9:50am on Sundays/Located in the Parish Life Center Lower-level classrooms**  
**Classes begin on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

Spiritual-Social-Service-Study “Serious” – is what our 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade classes offer to our students as they delve deeper in their study of faith. A combination of Catechesis, Spiritual Formation, as well as a set of speakers that give the different sides of humanity that need our help, that need our attention. As Catholics we are called to take our faith into the world and live it out in every relationship, in our work, and in our families. Our middle school program will guide our youth to “see their faith realized” in their own lives and in the lives of others.

Your 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grader will hear a several speakers each year that show us the different sides of humanity that need our help or show us how to deepen our faith with God assisting them in their journey of faith.

**2024-2025 Speaker Line up:**

**6-8<sup>th</sup> Grades Forming Missionary Disciples 8:55am – 9:50am on Sundays**  
**Finding God by Loyola for 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – The new edition of *Finding God* for Grades 1–6 reinforces the program’s robust Catholic faith content using dynamic multimedia experiences. Children engage with videos, audio, and interactive experiences to respond to the ongoing invitation to enter a deeper relationship with God and the Catholic Church. Throughout *Finding God*, children engage with Scripture and prayerfully consider the essential connections between God’s Word and their own lives. Each session begins with Scripture, and new posters and blackline masters devoted to Bible passages are integrated into every lesson. There is also an easy-to-use guide on how to read scripture located on the back cover of every Student Book.

The Student Book features Catholic content shared in a rich context with beautiful Catholic art, thoughtful prayers, and engaging activities and experiences that will draw children in to fully learn, experience, and express their faith. Every session creates an environment in which children connect and further develop Catholic identity and literacy.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrichment: 6<sup>th</sup> graders will begin in late January or early February studying the Stations of the Cross and will put on a prayer service acting out a modern-day version of the Stations before Easter. The students' study this for 6 weeks and learn every spiritual aspect of the Stations.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – *Finding God* for Junior High enhanced with multimedia allows young people to transcend book learning by incorporating rich multimedia that amplifies the affective features of the text, and draws them into a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Christ. By using a media-enhanced, active-learning approach that guides young people to encounter the Gospel and through substantive lessons, experiential activities, Scripture stories, prayer, and multimedia, young people are inspired to live as missionary disciples of Christ.

This format follows the traditional model of classroom instruction with the added benefit of engaging multimedia. Students access multimedia by scanning the QR codes on their unit bookmarks or through the new *Finding God* app.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Enrichment: 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take 6 weeks to learn all parts of the Rosary, how it started, etc. They will then make a recording of the Rosary with their classmates and share it with family, friends, and the parish as they prayerfully enter their Confirmation 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade – uses the following curriculum:**

**DECISION POINT** is the first Confirmation program specifically developed to engage young Catholics in a meaningful conversation about the genius of Catholicism. It teaches and inspires teens to

respond to God's grace, and it is changing hundreds of thousands of young lives. Today, DECISION POINT is the most used Confirmation program in America.

The theology of Confirmation informs us that it is about God choosing us, but we are endowed with free will and so for God to do his best work in us and through us we need to respond and cooperate as Mary and the Saints did.

This program will not only prepare young Catholics for the Sacrament of Confirmation in a dynamic way, but also teach and inspire them to respond and cooperate with God's grace in all the circumstances of their daily lives long after their Confirmation has passed.

### **YouCat Confirmation Book**

Written for the candidates in junior high, this YOUCAT Confirmation book provides in-depth preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Designed in the same popular format as the best-selling YOUCAT, this book has interesting, lively text on many spiritual topics and themes to help the student be well prepared to receive the Sacrament. It also includes many good questions throughout the book that youth ask about the faith, God, Jesus, the Church, etc. and answers are cross referenced with either the Bible or with YOUCAT.

Among topics covered are: Why the Word is Broken, Jesus-More than a Mere Man, In Search of the Holy Spirit, Prayer-Staying in Touch with God, The Church, Eucharist, Confession, the Rite of Confirmation, and more. Like You cat the creative design includes many fun illustrations, color pictures, quotes from saints, popes, and scripture.

**At Home Classes are offered for 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades for students in travel sports or a family situation that does not allow them to attend in person on Sunday mornings.**

At Home course work is offered at your own pace, but a syllabus is provided to assist you so you can do your work in anytime that works for you during the week.

**Your work is accountable with a fall and a spring assessment that you do online. This is required to go onto the next grade and prove you have done the work.**

**NOTE: A student in a sport in the fall but able to attend our spring session may do At Home and jump back into the in-person classes. You must have permission for this and let the Director of Religious Ed know your plans.**

**If you prefer to do your work over the summer, please contact Krista Joseph, the DRE, to discuss options!**

**Our Lady of Victory  
2024-2025 School Year  
At Home Catechesis**

**Curriculum: Finding God 1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Dynamic Catholic's Decision Point Series for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
YOUCAT Confirmation for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**At Home Catechesis offered for 1-8<sup>th</sup> Grades for students in travel sports or a family situation that does not allow you to attend in person on Sunday mornings.**

**Pick up materials in the Religious Ed hallway on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the parent meeting or on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> when the Middle schoolers begin their studies.**

If your student is in 6-8th Grades, they must attend the first day of class on September 29th with our speaker and all other speaker dates listed on our calendar.

You will receive a syllabus to follow to keep you on track throughout the school year. All work must be completed by May 31st, 2024. Your workbook should be returned to the office by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, if you cannot complete it by this date, please reach out to Krista Joseph, the DRE, to make arrangements.

Assessments in the Fall and in the Spring are required. A link to the assessment will be emailed to you directly from the Loyola Press website to a parent email address that was provided in your registration form. We do not collect student email addresses per the Diocesan Safe Environment rules.

These assessments are open books and working with other students and friends is encouraged. Talking about your faith is ALWAYS a good thing and encouraged! If a student does better at taking assessments on paper instead of online, please email the DRE or a PDF of the test.

**Finding God – 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades Curriculum**

The new edition of *Finding God* for Grades 1–6 reinforces the program's robust Catholic faith content using dynamic multimedia experiences. Children engage with videos, audio, and interactive experiences to respond to the ongoing invitation to enter a deeper relationship with God and the Catholic Church. Throughout *Finding God*, children engage with Scripture and prayerfully consider the essential connections between God's Word and their own lives. Each session begins with Scripture, and new posters and blackline masters devoted to Bible passages are integrated into every lesson. There is also an easy-to-use guide on how to read scripture located on the back cover of every Student Book.

The Student Book features Catholic content shared in a rich context with beautiful Catholic art, thoughtful prayers, and engaging activities and experiences that will draw children in to fully learn, experience, and express their faith. Every session creates an environment in which children connect and further develop Catholic identity and literacy.

## New Features:

- **Unit Saint Video** opens each unit and provides students a model Christian discipleship while offering insight on the session and illuminating the life and work of the saint.
- **Unit Opener Activity** includes Scripture and an activity that introduces the unit theme.
- **Integrated Art Print Page** draws inspiration from traditional and modern artworks from around the world to teach core content including Catholic Scripture, Tradition, and beliefs.
- **Parent Resources** accessible through the student book gives parents an opportunity to learn more about the faith concepts their child is studying in class.

## Finding God 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Finding God* for Junior High enhanced with multimedia allows young people to transcend book learning by incorporating rich multimedia that amplifies the affective features of the text, and draws them into a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Christ. By using a media-enhanced, active-learning approach that guides young people to encounter the Gospel and through substantive lessons, experiential activities, Scripture stories, prayer, and multimedia, young people are inspired to live as missionary disciples of Christ.

This format follows the traditional model of classroom instruction with the added benefit of engaging multimedia. Students access multimedia by scanning the QR codes on their unit bookmarks or through the new *Finding God* app.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Dynamic Catholic Decision Point and You CAT Confirmation Course Book

**DECISION POINT** is the first Confirmation program specifically developed to engage young Catholics in a meaningful conversation about the genius of Catholicism. It teaches and inspires teens to respond to God's grace, and it is changing hundreds of thousands of young lives. Today, DECISION POINT is the most used Confirmation program in America.

The theology of Confirmation informs us that it is about God choosing us, but we are endowed with free will and so for God to do his best work in us and through us we need to respond and cooperate as Mary and the Saints did.

This program will not only prepare young Catholics for the Sacrament of Confirmation in a dynamic way, but also teach and inspire them to respond and cooperate with God's grace in all the circumstances of their daily lives long after their Confirmation has passed.

### You CAT Confirmation Book

Written for the candidates in junior high, this YOUCAT Confirmation book provides in-depth preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Designed in the same popular format as the best-selling YOUCAT, this book has interesting, lively text on many spiritual topics and themes to help the student be well prepared to receive the Sacrament. It also includes many good questions throughout the book that youth ask about the faith, God, Jesus, the Church, etc. and answers are cross referenced with either the Bible or with YOUCAT.

Among topics covered are: Why the Word is Broken, Jesus-More than a Mere Man, In Search of the Holy Spirit, Prayer-Staying in Touch with God, The Church, Eucharist, Confession, the Rite of Confirmation, and more. Like Youcat the creative design includes many fun illustrations, color pictures, quotes from saints, popes, and scripture.

# Catch Up Classes

**For Students who have missed First Communion or Confirmation prep in 7<sup>th</sup>  
grade  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades  
2024-2025**

We offer this program to students who have missed their First Communion and the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade year that prepares them for Confirmation which takes place in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Contact the Director of Religious Ed to set up a time to discuss how to best handle this with your family situation.

We typically place the child in their present grade. In addition, they meet about 10 times starting in January of the school year to get them caught up with their Sacraments. Depending on what grade they are in, we decide together with the parents when the best time to receive these Sacraments is.

Again, please contact Krista Joseph, the DRE, at [religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc](mailto:religioused@ourladyofvictory.cc) to discuss options for Catch up Classes.

## **Program used for 3 – 8<sup>th</sup> Graders**

## **Faith Fusion — Our Sunday Visitor**

### **KNOWING, LOVING, AND SERVING CHRIST IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*Two levels: Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8.* Provides a complete review of the Catechism for elementary and middle school students. With a clear, consistent focus on Scripture and tradition in every lesson, *Faith Fusion* connects to the lives of the students through prayer, activities, reflections, and stories of faith. Presents the church's social teaching, beliefs and practices, traditional prayers, church history highlights and more. *Faith Fusion*, Elementary Edition is appropriate for students in Grades 3-5 who have had no prior catechesis, have gaps in their faith formation, or are part of a parish RCIA program adapted for children. Middle School Edition is appropriate for Confirmation preparation, RCIA, and junior high programs in parish or Catholic School.

**Sadlier Sacrament Program is used for First Reconciliation and First Communion**