



Just as the **RCIA** is the process by which the Catholic Church welcomes new adult members into its midst, this is a process by which children and youth prepare for and celebrate their initiation and growth into the Sacramental Life of the Church.

Growing in Faith is a multi-dimensional process of preparation that includes the thorough study of Sacred Scripture and Church doctrine, spiritual reflection, private prayer, liturgical (public) prayer of the Church, community involvement, and service.

This process is essentially a loving immersion into the Mystery of the Church in which Christ is truly active and present and facilitates a conversion of the heart to our loving God through Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior.



"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

- Matthew 19:14

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GROWING IN FAITH

Special Sacramental Preparation for Children and Youth



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WHAT IS GROWING IN FAITH?

Growing in Faith is an alternative form of sacramental preparation. It is a sacramental preparation program that is specially designed for families with children who have missed the reception of the sacraments at the usual age. This process follows some aspects of the RCIA pattern of liturgically marked periods in the conversion process closely in order to prepare children to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist). However it differs from the RCIA in approach at **SAINT JOHN NEUMANN** by involving parents and siblings in the learning process via a family formatted presentation of scriptural and doctrinal teaching.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The Growing in Faith Program is an intergenerational sacramental preparation program that encourages the intellectual and spiritual development of people at all stages of growth and maturity.

This program is anchored in the events and practices of the Saint John Neumann Parish Community and prepares its participants to practice their faith through intergenerational (child-parent-grandparent) faith learning and sharing. The program emphasizes both the home and the parish as the settings for learning and living the Catholic faith. Home instruction is enriched and fortified through monthly teaching and faith-sharing sessions.

WHAT KINDS OF TOPICS ARE COVERED?

The program covers a range of topics that directly pertain to the preparation for reception of the Sacraments. These topics include the fundamentals of faith such as the doctrine of the Trinity, the nature of the Church, the life of discipleship, and the Sacraments (with special emphasis is placed on the Sacraments of Initiation).

HOW ARE THE MONTHLY SESSIONS FORMATTED?

Each monthly session begins with a large group gathering of all the participating families for Opening Prayer and a Large Group

Presentation of the monthly theme that is designed to reach all ages. Following the Large Group Presentation are Small Groups Lessons designed to provide age specific lessons and activities for children, adolescents, and adults. The monthly session culminates in a Family Activity in which individual families gather for an activity designed to reinforce the monthly lesson and provide families with an opportunity to engage in discussion and faith-sharing as a family. The monthly session closes with a Large Group Gathering for Closing Prayer.

WHAT MATERIALS ARE PROVIDED?

Materials are provided for each family. Each family receives a Growing in Faith Binder containing materials written and published especially for the adults, adolescents and children entitled "*The Journey of Faith*" that covers the monthly topics to take home and work on together. Additionally a periodical, entitled "*Generations*", is also included which covers a full range of related topics contained in the monthly theme. The periodical contains articles and suggested activities that appeal to various age levels. Each family engages in home study and reflection at their own pace and convenience.

