

The Catholic Church of the
TRANSFIGURATION

Welcome ■ Celebrate ■ Grow ■ Serve

ABIDE_{in}
His **LOVE**
PERMANECE_{en Su}AMOR



HAND IT ON! 2020

¡TRANSMÍTELO!

Our Great Journey
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2020 - 2021 SCHOOL YEAR
Preschool—Grade 12 & Adult Faith

Please note that not all has been updated to reflect the current
Virtual class gatherings, as our hope is to return to on-site
gatherings and classes.

Don't keep the faith.

(Spread it around!)

Living our Faith

Each grade level will have the opportunity to share God's love with others!

Preschool—Kindergarten	Kid Food for St Vincent de Paul
Grade 1	Caring for Creation
Grade 2	Two Cents a Meal to benefit St Vincent de Paul
Grade 3	Ronald McDonald House
Grade 4	Cobb Co. Schools Meals
Grade 5	Sacrament Encouragement
Grade 6-12	Various service projects throughout the year

We are so thankful for the many adults who have volunteered as Grade Service Coordinators. We still need more help, if you are interested, please contact Sheila Murray, smurray@transfiguration.com for Grades 1-5 and Theresa Brader, tbrader@transfiguration.com, for Grades 6-12, to see how you can help.

We are very excited about developing these opportunities for our kids to serve others and live the Gospel.

Jesus said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

~Matthew 20:28

The Pastor's Office



Welcome to a new school year and a new experience in religious education. We've been working to redesign our delivery and environment for religious education and are excited to invite you to "Our Great Journey." We are all journeying to know God, experience his love and are challenged to witness his love to our family, friends, and communities.

Enrollment in our religious education program offers our children, teens and adults a sense of community that cannot be duplicated in the home. We provide opportunities for the children to interact with their brothers and sisters in Christ. In addition, our programs are designed to supplement, in age appropriate ways, the Catholic teachings and values you are living at home.

Parents, you are the first teachers for your children in the ways and traditions of our Catholic faith. This is the vow you made when you had your children baptized. You teach them in so many ways – not only with your words but with your actions as well.

I encourage you, too, to continue Our Great Journey and learn about your faith as adult Catholics. We have so many wonderful opportunities in Adult Faith, join the sojourners and let's journey together. Many of the classes, presentations, and seminars are conveniently offered simultaneously while your child is in faith group. What a witness to your child that they see mom and dad participating in faith formation too.

Please continue to make your children's religious education and participation in weekly Mass a priority. They will learn by your witness.

May God continue to bless you and your family,



Fr. Fernando Molina-Restrepo
Pastor

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A PARENT'S PRAYER

Lord, God, make me a better parent. Help me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say, to understand all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them, talking back to them, and contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children and ask them for forgiveness, when I know that I have done wrong.

May I not vainly hurt the feelings of my children. Forbid that I should laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame and ridicule as punishment. Let me not tempt a child to lie and steal. So, guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do, that honesty produces happiness.

May I cease to nag; and when I am out of sorts, help me, O Lord, to hold my tongue. Help me to gently correct the little errors of my children and help me to see the good things that they do. Give me a ready word for honest praise.

Help me to treat my children as those of their own age, but let me not exact of them the judgments and conventions of adults. Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose, and to make their own decisions.

Forbid that I should ever punish them in anger. May I grant them all their wishes that are reasonable and have the courage always to withhold a privilege that I know will do them harm.

Make me so fair and just, so considerate and companionable to my children that they will have genuine esteem for me. Help me to be loved and imitated by my children. Oh God, do give me calm, poise and self-control. Amen



GENERAL OFFICE INFORMATION

OUR GREAT JOURNEY

SEEKERS: Preschool & K

TRAVELERS: Grades 1-3

VOYAGERS: Grades 4-5

CHRISTEEN = Grades 6-12

SOJOURNERS: Adult Faith —for all adults in the parish community

Parish office: 770-977-1442; Voice mail: ext. 125

Parish FAX: 770-578-1415 www.transfiguration.com/education/

Journey Office Hours: >Monday through Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
>Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
>During all regularly scheduled classes, including Sunday morning

Please note: During the pandemic, the offices are closed; however, the staff is working remotely. We are checking email frequently throughout the day.

Director of Religious Education, Youth Ministry & BRITE

Joyce Guris, 678-223-7355, jguris@transfiguration.com

Assistant Director Preschool & Elementary Religious Education, & OCI-C Coordinator

Sheila Murray, 678-223-7349, smurray@transfiguration.com

Director of Adult Faith

Therese DeLashmutt, 678-223-7328, tdelashmutt@transfiguration.com

Adult Faith Coordinator

Amy Krakauer, 678-223-7328, akrakauer@transfiguration.com

Sunday Morning Preschool & Kindergarten Coordinator

Lynn Southall, 678-223-7350, lsouthall@transfiguration.com

Youth Ministry

Theresa Brader, 678-223-7361, tbrader@transfiguration.com

Confirmation Coordinator

Karen Paonessa, 678-223-7348, kpaonessa@transfiguration.com

Journey Administrative Assistant & Registrar

Nuvia Solano, 678-223-7325, nsolano@transfiguration.com

Journey Administrative Assistant

Penny Fitzpatrick Gillette, 678-223-7329, pfitzpatrick@transfiguration.com

Nursery Coordinator

Karla Colman, 678-223-7338, kcolman@transfiguration.com

Adult Education & Faith Formation

“SOJOURNERS”

SO'JOURNER, n. A temporary resident; a stranger or traveler who dwells in a place for a time.

*“For before you we are strangers and travelers, like all our ancestors.” 1Chronicles 29:15
God calls us to be in this world, but not of this world. We are here temporarily as “Sojourners” in a journey to our permanent home with HIM*

What is Adult Education & Faith Formation? Why is it for you?

(from the Archdiocese of Atlanta)

“The Church's catechetical mission aims to help the faithful of all ages to grow in both human and Christian maturity, enriching the whole of life with the leaven of the Gospel. Consequently, appropriate goals and content will embrace all the faith dimensions of an adult life—for example, understanding and communicating the faith, skills needed for personal growth, the experience of family life, relationships, public service, and concern for the common good.”

Three major goals guide and direct efforts in adult faith formation:

- 1. Invite and Enable Ongoing Conversion to Jesus in Holiness of Life.*
- 2. Promote and Support Active Membership in the Christian Community.*
- 3. Call and Prepare Adults to Act as Disciples in Mission to the World.*

We have been challenged by this mission statement. Join us in our studies, classes or workshops and let us know how we are doing and how we can better serve you in the future.

Your Adult Faith Formation Team

Contact us:

Therese DeLashmutt, Director of Adult Education & Faith Formation

Phone: 678-223-7328

Email: tdelashmutt@transfiguration.com

Amy Krakauer, Adult Education & Faith Formation Coordinator

Phone: 678-223-7328

Email: akrakauer@transfiguration.com

[WEBPAGE:](http://www.transfiguration.com/education/adult-education/) www.transfiguration.com/education/adult-education/

“...They called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith...” Acts 14:27

In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that God has opened the door of faith for the early Church. But did you know that God has opened the door of faith for each one of us and he invites us to step through the threshold into a deeper relationship with him? Our Adult Education Faith Formation has opportunities for every Catholic to turn towards Jesus Christ, encounter him in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and rediscover the Faith and Church.

Adult Faith Formation provides an opportunity for Catholics to experience a conversion – to turn back to Jesus and enter into a deeper relationship with him. The “door of faith” is opened at one’s baptism, but as Catholics we are called to open it frequently, walk through it and rediscover and renew our relationship with Christ and his Church.

SOJOURNERS

2020-2021 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Currently, all classes are meeting virtually.

WEEKLY CLASSES

SUNDAYS

8:20-9:35 a.m. & 6:30-8:00 p.m. TBD (meets during Journey class times)

MONDAYS

4:00-5:15 p.m. TBD (meets during Journey class times)

TUESDAYS

10:00-11:30 a.m. Spirituality Study
3:30-5:00 p.m. Senior Study and Spirituality (over 50)

WEDNESDAYS

9:30-12:00 p.m. Centering Prayer
4:00-5:15 p.m. & 6:30-7:45 p.m. TBD (meets during Journey class times)

THURSDAYS

9:45-11:00 a.m. Pathfinders
7:00-8:30 p.m. Men's Scripture Study
7:00-9:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

FRIDAYS

7:00-8:00 a.m. Men's Scripture Study
9:45-12:00 p.m. Women in Faith

MONTHLY CLASSES:

UNDERSTANDING OUR FAITH CLASSES:

These are the building blocks of our faith. All are welcome!

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS (CST):

The Catholic Church has a history of social teaching that goes back centuries and provides a compelling challenge for living responsibly and building a just society. Modern Catholic Social Teaching, rooted in Scripture and articulated through a tradition of written documents, has evolved over time in response to the challenges of the day.

Most Classes follow the Cobb County Calendar. In case of inclement weather, we also follow Cobb County Protocol. You may also visit Transfiguration.com for updates.

Visit it our **"Sojourners"** webpage for class descriptions and updated offerings.
Most classes offer FREE Childcare. www.transfiguration.com/education/adult-education/

PRESCHOOL—GRADE 12 CLASS SCHEDULE

Currently, all classes are meeting virtually. When it is safe to resume on-site gatherings, we will return to the schedule below. For program descriptions during this time of pandemic, www.transfiguration.com/education.

Preschool 3 and Preschool 4	Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Kindergarten	Sunday 8:20 a.m., and 10:00 a.m. Monday 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 4:00 p.m.
1st through 5th Grade	Sunday 8:20 a.m. Monday 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
6th through 8th Grade	Sunday 6:30 p.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
9th through 12th Grade	Sunday 6:30 p.m.*
RUACH—Grades 6, 7, 8 & 9 <i>(Contact Joyce Guris for program details & application)</i>	Designated Sundays, 6:30 p.m.
OCI-C (for Children, 8 years-8th Grade) Students attend both sessions:	Sunday 10:00 a.m.—English Mass Dismissal Sunday Noon—1:15 p.m.—Class for Children & Parents Sunday 2:00 p.m. —Spanish Mass Dismissal
OCI-A (for Adults & Teens)	Sunday: 10:00 a.m.—English Sunday: 2:00 p.m.—Spanish
BRITE Elementary/ Jr High	Wednesday: 6:30-7:45 p.m. (usually every other Wednesday)
BRITE HS & Young Adult <i>(usually every other Sunday)</i>	Sunday: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**Hospitality is available (\$1.00) to students in Bishop Hall after the 5:00 p.m. Mass before classes begin at 6:30 pm.*

Class Cancellation: Inclement Weather & Emergencies:

Please download My Parish App on your phone and join our Religious Education (Journey) Groups. It is the quickest way for us to notify you of any class time changes. Also check www.transfiguration.com for scrolling banner announcements.

It is Religious Education policy to follow the Cobb County School Closing Schedule and cancellations due to weather. **If Cobb County closes due to weather emergencies, there will be no classes at Transfiguration.**

For Sunday classes: If the State Department of Transportation has issued a Travelers' Advisory, individuals should check for class cancellations on My Parish App or at Transfiguration website. Updates will be posted.

PRESCHOOL – GRADE 5 CURRICULUM

“Jesus is beckoning you to go on a real journey with Him - a journey in faith, which will demand all your generosity, enthusiasm, and courage. It can be a wonderful adventure. Jesus is depending on you. He depends on you to help free the world of sin and selfishness... but always remember that you never walk alone. Christ is your constant companion.

God’s kingdom will be brought to fulfillment by your efforts...first in your own lives, and then in the world around you. The world is looking for signs of God’s kingdom in your lives...For this reason, I invite all of you to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). God is love, true love. Reflect that love, so that people will say “I have seen God’s kingdom” - - because they have come to know you...Follow the path marked out by your Friend, Jesus.”

- Pope John Paul II

Objectives

Transfiguration provides a comprehensive catechetical program based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Scripture, Catholic teachings, and life experiences. Each grade level focuses on a specific theme, as well as Catholic prayers, Catholic vocabulary, and Mass responses. By the end of each year, students will have been exposed to and understand a variety of topics within their grade level theme. All learning is cumulative, and students are expected to be familiar with the previous curriculum.

Preschool /Seekers **Theme:** Old Testament (Age 3) New Testament (Age 4)

Grades K-5 www.loyolapress.com/faithformation/finding-god

- Each grade level has a major theme explored in five units:
 - God, Our Creator and Father
 - Jesus, Our Lord and Savior
 - The Church, Our Community in the Spirit
 - Sacraments, Our Way of Life
 - Morality, Our Lived Faith
- Each year’s study builds on lessons from previous years
- Each class includes four activity centers for students to explore the day’s lesson in different ways.
- Each study unit begins with a review of a saint and his/her life.

Kindergarten/Seekers **Theme:** *Creation*

1st Grade/Travelers **Theme:** *God Found Everything Good -God & Creator*

2nd Grade/Travelers **Theme:** *I Am the True Vine-Eucharist & Reconciliation*

3rd Grade/Travelers **Theme:** *Fishers of Men - Church & Holy Spirit*

4th Grade/Voyagers **Theme:** *Beatitudes and The Ten Commandments*

5th Grade/Voyagers **Theme:** *The Bread of Life, Sacraments & Worship*

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Grades 6-8 have a 3 year curriculum rotation using the Catholic Connections Handbook

Year 1:

Themes: Sacraments & Prayer, The Eucharist and Morality

Year 2:

Themes: God, Revelations & Faith, Jesus the Christ & The Holy Spirit & The Church

Year 3:

Theme: Scripture

Grades 6 - 8 text: www.smp.org/series/59/Catholic-ConnectionsParish-Edition/

HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Grades 9-12 have a 4 year curriculum rotation

Year 1:

Theme: Catholic Belief

Year 2:

Themes: Morality and Church History

Year 3:

Theme: Old and New Testaments

Year 4:

Theme: Church Teachings

Resources for Families

-
• Textbook Publisher's Websites:

Grades K-5 www.loyolapress.com

Grades 6-8 www.smp.org/esource/catholicconnections

Grades 9-12, adapted from *Live Jesus in our Hearts* from St. Mary's Press, www.smp.org.

- Partners in Faith monthly, available at www.transfiguration.com/journey
- www.usccb.org has the daily readings and is a good resource for Catholic theology.
- <https://transfiguration.com/education/information-for-parents/>

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Standardized Testing

The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) test is administered to all 5th, 8th, and 11th grade students every 5 years. Students are evaluated on their knowledge of the Catholic faith. Grade level results are shared with families and used for curriculum planning.

Pray All Ways



WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is being in relationship with God. Prayer is talking freely to God from our heart. Prayer is listening, being quiet and still in God’s presence. Prayer is expressing to God your fears & concerns, discussing with Him your problems, needs & questions, sharing with Him your joys & delights.

As parents we need to assure our children that God is always listening.

“Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Parents are the best, first and primary role models of pray-ers for their children. Parents teach prayer by praying. Make prayer and the spiritual life a priority. Pray-pray-pray-pray! As you know, there are many forms of prayer: spontaneous and conversational, memorized, learned prayers, praying with Scripture, contemplative — all are awesome ways to communicate with God.

Memorized prayers allow us to pray together as a community. There are many times throughout life when we just can’t find the words to express our thoughts and find comfort in the prayers we memorized as children. Below is a list of the prayers that children will learn and memorize at each grade level. Learning is spiral, so that we expect children to learn the prayers, pray the prayers from the earliest grades forward. Parents are expected to partner with us in teaching and praying the prayers with your children. Each month we will focus on the prayers listed below.

Kindergarten	Sign of Cross and Our Father	August
1 st Grade	Hail Mary	September
2 nd Grade	Act of Contrition	October
3 rd Grade	Glory Be and Morning Offering	November
4 th Grade	Apostle’s Creed	December
5 th Grade	Nicene Creed	January
6 th Grade	Memorare	February
7 th Grade	Rosary	March
8 th Grade	Prayer to the Holy Spirit <i>Angelus (see page 15)</i> <i>Regina Cali (see page 15)</i>	April



LORD
Hear Our
Prayers

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit
Amen

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now, and at the hour of our death.
Amen

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my
heart. In choosing to do wrong
And failing to do good, I have sinned against you
Whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to
sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to
sin.
Our Savior Jesus Christ Suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end
Amen

Morning Offering

O Jesus, I offer you all my prayers, works,
and sufferings of this day for all the intentions
of your most Sacred Heart
Amen

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from
the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen

Memorare

Remember, most loving Virgin Mary,
never was it heard that anyone who turned to you
for help was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence,
though burdened by my sins,
I run to your protection for you are my mother.
Mother of the Word of God,
do not despise my words of pleading,
but be merciful and hear my prayer.
Amen

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your
faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created
and you will renew the face of the earth.
Amen

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Rosary

A rosary is made up of groups of beads arranged in a circle. It begins with a cross followed by one large bead and three small ones. The next large bead (just before the medal) begins the first “decade.” Each decade consists of one large bead followed by ten smaller beads.

Begin the rosary with the Sign of the Cross. Recite the Apostles’ Creed. Then pray one Our Father, three Hail Mary’s, and one Glory to the Father.

To pray each decade, say an Our Father on the large bead and a Hail Mary on each of the ten smaller beads. Close each decade by praying the Glory Be. Pray the Hail, Holy Queen as the last prayer of the rosary.

The mysteries of the rosary are special events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. As you pray each decade, think of the appropriate Joyful Mystery, Sorrowful Mystery, Glorious Mystery or Mysteries of Light.

The Five Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

The Five Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

The Five Mysteries of Light

1. Jesus’ Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Miracle at the Wedding at Cana
3. Jesus Announces the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope.

To you we cry, the children of Eve;

To you we send up our sighs,

Mourning and weeping in this land of exile.

Turn, then, most gracious advocate,

Your eyes of mercy toward us; lead us home at last
And show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus:

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Regina Caeli

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The *Regina Caeli* (Queen of Heaven) is sung or recited in the Liturgy of Hours Night Prayer and in place of the Angelus during the Easter season, from Holy Saturday through Pentecost Sunday

Liturgical Programs

Prayer Services: Prayer services are part of the total religion program. They are held at various times throughout the school year during regularly scheduled class time. Students will attend as part of their curriculum, remaining with their class and under the supervision of the catechists at all times. Parents are encouraged to attend these prayer services.

Perpetual Adoration: Each year, all Journey groups will have the opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We also encourage parents to bring their children to the chapel to pray together and teach about Jesus' presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Liturgy: On holy days and other significant occasions, liturgies are prepared specifically for children. Families are encouraged to attend together. Date and time notices will be sent home from class and listed in the parish bulletin.

Prayer Listeners: *For this year, we are suspending prayer listeners and ask catechists and parents to work together with your children to learn their grade level prayers.* For grades K-8, volunteers visit the children in the classrooms monthly to encourage and recognize prayers learned. Certificates are awarded for learning the grade-level prayer.

Reconciliation: All eligible students in grades 3 and above are encouraged to receive this Sacrament regularly. ChrisTeen students (grades 6-12) can attend special Reconciliation Services designed for teens. Reconciliation is available every Saturday, 3:45-4:45 p.m. or by appointment. During Advent and Lent additional days and times will be announced in the parish bulletin and in class.

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary

Behold the handmaid of the Lord
Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary

And the Word was made Flesh.
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Hail Mary

Let Us Pray

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord,
Thy grace into our hearts;
that, we to whom the Incarnation of Christ,
Thy Son, Was made known by the
message of an Angel,
May by His Passion and Cross,
be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Angelus (Latin for *Angel*) is traditionally recited in churches, convents, and monasteries three times daily: 6:00 am, noon, and 6:00 pm (many churches still follow the devotion, and some practice it at home).

SACRAMENT PROGRAM INFORMATION

Order of Christian Initiation for Children and Teens

Students 8 years old and older who have not been baptized, or have not received First Eucharist, or have not been enrolled in Religious Education classes, contact Sheila Murray, smurray@transfiguration.com, 678-223-7349, for OCI-C information.

High School Students, who have not been baptized, have not received First Eucharist, or have not been enrolled in Religious Education classes, should enroll in OCI-Teen program.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

These Sacraments are generally received in the 2nd grade. Students must have successfully completed 1st grade Religious Education and be actively and consistently participating in 2nd grade Religious Education. For older students, two consecutive years of completed Religious Education participation are required to begin Sacrament preparation. (See below for details about Reconciliation and Eucharist preparation.) Inability to complete the requirements will delay preparation and reception of the Sacrament.

Parents are required to attend one orientation and two meetings.

Students are required to complete two home family study books, attend one Friday evening workshop and two Saturday morning retreats (one for each Sacrament). Children will be interviewed to assess their readiness for receiving First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

There is a First Reconciliation preparation fee of \$30 and a First Eucharist preparation fee of \$30 (\$60 for both Sacrament preparations) to cover the additional costs (workbooks, activity supplies, certificates, refreshments, etc.). This is in addition to the regular Religious Education tuition.

Important Dates:

- Dates to be determined

Family Service Project - As part of God's family we are called to love and serve one another. All the First Communicants need to choose and participate in a service project. They will be required to write 5 sentences about how they served others and provide a picture (drawn or photograph) of what they did.

This will be due at First Reconciliation Retreat, **TBD**.



Read if you have a child in Grades 8-10!

Confirmation

In the Archdiocese of Atlanta, students are Confirmed in 10th grade. Continuous enrollment in Religious Education is expected; students must have successfully completed 8th and 9th grade Religious Education and be actively participating in 10th grade Religious Education. For older students, two consecutive years of completed Religious Education participation are required prior to the Sacrament preparation. To begin the next year of preparation, all prior requirements must be completed; including curriculum and service hours. (See below for an overview of Confirmation preparation.) Inability to complete the requirements will delay preparation and reception of the Sacrament.



Parents & Teens are required to attend a Confirmation meeting with their teen on Sunday, October 11, 6:30 p.m. in the church. *(This meeting is for those who will be confirmed during this school year.)*

Students in the final year of preparation are required to complete the Confirmation Journal (digital) at home and attend a weekend-long Antioch retreat. In addition, students must complete a minimum of 25 service hours over 4 years. Service Summary Sheets (available in the ChrisTeen office or at <https://transfiguration.com/education/grades-6-12/confirmation/>) should be turned in to the ChrisTeen office as detailed below.

- A Service Summary must be submitted at the end of 8th grade (**July 1**) with a minimum of 10 service hours (at least 5 through activities/ministries at Transfiguration). These hours are for service done in the 7th and 8th grade years.
- A Service Summary must be submitted at the end of 9th grade (**July 1**) with a minimum of 10 new service hours (at least 5 through activities/ministries at Transfiguration).
- A Service Summary must be submitted in the fall of 10th grade (**second Sunday of December**) with a minimum of 5 new service hours (at least 2-1/2 through activities/ministries at Transfiguration). This Service Summary Sheet is included in the Confirmation Workbook.

New service hours must be completed each year. Students are highly encouraged to go beyond the minimum requirements, but extra hours do not count towards the next years' service. Failure to meet the minimum requirements will delay the student's Confirmation date.

Students will be interviewed to assess their readiness for receiving Confirmation.

There is a Confirmation preparation fee of \$175.00 to cover the additional costs (workbooks, retreats, certificates, refreshments, etc.). This is in addition to the regular Religious Education tuition. (Please note, after **October 11**, the fee increases to \$190.00.)

Important Dates:

The mandatory Confirmation meeting in the Church for those being confirmed this school year is Sunday, **October 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** One parent must attend with his/her student, but both parents are welcome. Confirmation Journal, registration forms, and other important information are due at this meeting.

The weekend-long Antioch retreat is: **January 15-17, 2021**

Confirmation Masses, April 30 & May 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m

Rehearsal for Confirmandi & Sponsor: April 25, 6:30 p.m., Church for April 30

May 2, 6:30 pm, Church for May 7

2021 Confirmation Meetings April 19, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. (during faith group time) at the Family Life Center

SUNDAY MORNING PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

At the present time, all classes are digital. The following procedures apply when we resume on-site classes.

The Sunday Morning Preschool program is a preparatory program developing a faith sharing community within the classroom that integrates the Gospel, church traditions and doctrines with concrete examples and experiences that are age appropriate. Working together with their faith sharing community in the classroom complements the teaching of ongoing faith formation at home. An integrated lesson plan includes activities that engage the children in active learning about their Catholic faith. We encourage regular weekly attendance as that reinforces and builds a strong foundation of community.

The [Religious Education](#) staff and volunteers are committed to a safe environment for the children. On Sunday mornings there are many people entering and leaving the Church while preschool is assembling and dismissing. The following procedures have been implemented to insure the safety of the children:

Drop Off Procedure

- Parents must complete the [Release Authorization form](#) before dropping off children.
- Parents must escort their children to the classroom and sign them in on the attendance form.
- Parents must never leave children unattended in a classroom. They should wait for the catechist to arrive or escort the children to the [Religious Education](#) office.
- Parents will receive a card with a number on it. This number matches the number on the Sign In/Sign Out sheet* and should be returned when picking up children.

Dismissal Procedure

- Children will be released to parents when the correct card is returned and the children are signed out on the Sign In/Sign Out sheet*.
- Children will not be released to siblings under the age of 18.
- If the card is misplaced and the catechist does not recognize the parent, photo ID will be requested and names matched to the Release Authorization form before the child is released from the classroom.

*Please note: To maximize safety of our students, only one parent is permitted in the classroom for sign in and sign out at a time.

Additional Notes

- We encourage regular attendance to develop an environment of a faith-filled community within the classroom.
- Classroom doors should not be propped or held open, especially during dismissal time.
- Children should use restroom facilities before coming to class to minimize disruption of class time.
- Parents/guardians should be attending Mass during Sunday morning class times. Should the need arise, the staff should be able to locate the parent in the building.

THE CHRISTEEN PROGRAM



ChrisTeen Motto:
In giving and receiving comes belonging and believing!

The vision of the ChrisTeen program at Transfiguration is to create an environment that encourages ALL the youth of the parish to grow and develop their faith and relationship with God, their relationship with the community, and individually.

To create this environment, a process entitled *Comprehensive Youth Ministry* is used. This process is based on the following principles:

- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today
- To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community
- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person
- Provide support, training, and encouragement at every turn

A wide variety of activities and programs are required to ensure that the principles of Comprehensive Youth Ministry are maintained. They can be broken down into the following basic components:

- **Catechesis** — promoting a young person's growth in the Catholic faith through teaching and learning that emphasizes understanding, reflection, and transformation.
- **Liturgy and Worship** — involving young people in the many and varied worship experiences in the Church, including the Eucharist and other sacraments, non-sacramental liturgies and prayer services, and individual prayer.
- **Community Life** — providing meaningful programs and activities to support and strengthen the family unit and fostering community among adolescents.
- **Pastoral Care** — providing youth with sources of support and counsel as they face personal problems, pressures and important life decisions; offering appropriate support and guidance for youth during times of stress and crisis; developing a better understanding of their parents and learning how to communicate
- **Justice & Service** — guiding young people in developing a Catholic social consciousness and a commitment to a life of justice and peace through educational programs and involvement.
- **Evangelization** — reaching out to young people who are not involved in the life of the community and inviting them into a relationship with Jesus and Transfiguration Parish.
- **Advocacy** — empowering adolescents and adults to be ministers of the Gospel message, leading others to God as they themselves are being led; representing and supporting the needs of youth in the parish and local communities.
- **Leadership Development** — empowering youth for leadership and ministry with their peers (in schools, church, and civic communities) by affirming their gifts and equipping them with the necessary skills.

ChrisTeen Retreats

Beginning in 6th grade, student retreats are scheduled to enhance the curriculum. All students are strongly encouraged to attend as part of their grade level course work. Students in grades 9-12, who have been retreat participants, also have the opportunity to become retreat facilitators. These teens assist in planning and leading retreat activities. Detailed retreat information will be mailed home; reminders will also appear in the parish bulletin and at <https://transfiguration.com/education/grades-6-12/transfiguration-christeen-youth-retreats/>.

Please note, during this year of pandemic, the safety of all will be considered before scheduling retreats.

- ◆ 6th - 8th grade (**Jan. 22-24, 2021**) Discovering the Real You
- ◆ 8th grade (**April 17-18, 2021**): Anchored in Christ (preparing for high school)
- ◆ 9th grade (**Nov. 14-15, 2020**): Who Do You Say That I Am? – Jesus Retreat
- ◆ 10th grade (**Jan 15-17, 2020**): Antioch (mandatory for Confirmation candidates)
- ◆ 11th-12th grade (**March 13-14, 2021**): “Love relationships”

Making Disciples Program

- The Making Disciples Program, also referred to as Mentoring, is open to all enrolled 10th-12th grade students. (Students attending Catholic high schools should contact the ChrisTeen office to participate.) This program provides the opportunity for mutual faith sharing between adults and teens of Transfiguration. Students and adults are paired during the 10th grade year and, ideally, remain together until the student graduates. Each teen is asked to choose an adult mentor (a practicing Catholic who can attend all the meetings). While parents cannot be mentors for their own children, adult siblings and other relatives are eligible. The mentor does not need to be the Confirmation sponsor, but, if possible, that is best. ChrisTeen staff is available to assist with the mentor selection process, if needed.
- On four Sunday evenings each school year the students meet with their mentors for mutual faith sharing through guided discussion topics. The meetings take place at Transfiguration during regularly scheduled Sunday evening class time. Meeting reminders are sent to both the students and the mentors.

Students not participating in the mentoring program are required to be in class.

Service

Christian life expresses itself in action. Individual members of the Body of Christ become Jesus' hands and feet, ministering to those in need. Several different service projects will be available to Journey students throughout the school year. Families are encouraged to discuss these projects and have students select one or more to be involved with as a class. Some on-going projects include:

- “Get Well” cards – Students can make cards for parishioners who are ill. Cards should be signed with first names only. Ministry of Caring members will deliver them.
- “Thank You” cards – Students can make cards for Transfiguration’s pastoral staff.
- Giving Tree – Students can work together to purchase an item from the tree. Students and their families are invited to assist in sorting and delivering the gifts.
- Easter Basket project – ChrisTeen students ask parishioners to donate specific items. The teens use the items to assemble Easter Baskets that are delivered by Ministry of Caring.
- Mission Trip – During the summer, teens participate in a week-long mission. Includes 10 preparation meetings and fund raising. First planning meeting is **Tuesday August 27, 7:30. (Unsure of mission 2021).**

Any class service project that is not organized through the [Religious Education office](#) or a Transfiguration ministry must be approved by [Religious Education](#) staff prior to its implementation. This should be done several weeks in advance to allow for approval and completion of all necessary administrative details.

JOURNEY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Right to Amend

The Pastor and the Director of Religious Education retain the right to amend this handbook. Parents and catechists will be notified in writing if changes are made.

Visitor Passes

In an effort to ensure our children's safety, a Building Receptionist will be at the entrance to the classroom hallway. Everyone (except students and volunteers or staff with Transfiguration name badges) will be required to sign in and get a Visitor Pass.

Parent Responsibilities

The primary responsibility for the Religious Education of children belongs to their parents. In addition, parents are responsible for:

- Supporting **JOURNEY** program policies and the authority of the administration and catechists.
- Modeling and supporting their children's practice of the Catholic Faith, including attending Mass

- Requiring their children to attend classes and complete all assignments.

- Insisting that their children obey the regulations and principles of good behavior.

- Discussing problems confidentially with the appropriate staff member; avoiding public criticism of

- Following the policies and procedures as stated in this handbook.

- Reimbursing Transfiguration or other individuals for any property damage caused by their children

- Paying all fees on time or contacting the Journey Registrar for financial assistance.

Communication

Parent Welcome Meeting: All parents should attend the Parent Welcome Meeting held during the students' first-class period of the year. (Except Sunday AM Preschool-Kindergarten who go directly to the classroom).

Student emergency information: Changes to the information recorded on the Journey Registration form for the student's Emergency Contact Person should be reported to the Religious Education office immediately.

Parish bulletin, website and app: The most current, up-to-date information regarding classes, activities, and events can be found in the parish bulletin and www.transfiguration.com/education and at My Parish app. Please download the app and join the various groups to receive text alerts. The **JOURNEY** and ChrisTeen pages should be checked on a weekly basis. The parish bulletin is also available online at www.transfiguration.com.

Between parents and catechists (teachers): Catechists are given contact phone numbers and e-mails for all of their students. Many catechists send their own contact information home with the students in an introductory letter. If a student's catechists have not provided parents with contact information and it is necessary for a parent to speak with his/her child's catechists, parents should contact the Religious Education office.

Report to Parents: Two progress reports will be issued for each student; one at mid-year, one at the end of the year. (Reports to parents are not prepared for Preschool and Kindergarten students.)

Getting To and From Class

Ride Sharing:

Transfiguration does not match families for ride sharing to class. Parents interested in ride sharing can notify the [Religious Education](#) office, give permission for the [Religious Education](#) staff to give out their contact information. When ride sharing inquiries are made to the office, contact information will be released. It is up to the parents to make any and all arrangements. Transfiguration will not be held responsible.

Student Drop Off: Students are to be dropped off for class in the circular driveway in front of the church only. Class cancellations and “No Class Today” reminders are posted at this entrance. **Students should not be dropped off at any other entrance***. Parents are expected to wait until students enter the building before driving away. For the safety of the students, parents must drop off their children no more than 10 minutes before class begins, as supervision may not be available. Students should never be left unattended on church property.

**Sunday & Wednesday 6th—8th grade students should be dropped off at the office entrance to the Family Life Center.*

Early dismissal: Occasionally, a student will need to be picked up before the end of class. There will be no early dismissals during the last 15 minutes of any time track, as classes are concluding and preparing for dismissal. For other early dismissals, parents must go to the Reception Desk in the Church foyer and sign out the student. Students will not be permitted to wait outside. A designated [JOURNEY](#) volunteer will escort the student from his/her class to the church foyer. Students will **not** be dismissed from classrooms. Other adults may sign out a student if written permission is given by the student’s parent. It is the parents’ responsibility to notify the JOURNEY office staff of any individuals who are NOT allowed to sign out or pick up their child(ren).

If early dismissal requests exceed 5 occasions, please consider selecting another day/time for your child to participate in JOURNEY. We are sensitive to emergency situations; however, routinely picking up your child early from class is disruptive to the learning environment.

For the safety of young drivers: Many high school students drive to class. When high school students have an unreported (unexcused) absence, [JOURNEY](#) volunteers make every effort to call the parents. This is done for the safety of the students and the peace-of-mind of the parents. To avoid receiving a call, parents should report all high school student absences (see “Attendance & Missed Classes” in the [POLICIES & PROCEDURES](#) section of this handbook) by calling **770-977-1442, ext. 125** and leave a message with student’s name and class.

Walking home: [JOURNEY](#) students are not permitted to walk home alone after classes or other events. Parents must pick up their students and walk with them when leaving the property. ChrisTeen students are permitted to walk home after class is dismissed if they have written permission from a parent. Permission notes must be turned in to the [Religious Education](#) office before class begins.

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE DISMISSED USING CARPOOL
(except Sunday morning Preschool & Sunday Elementary 8:20 am classes)

Dismissal Procedures are detailed in the [CARPOOL PLAN](#) section of this handbook.

Attendance & Missed Classes

- **Regular attendance in JOURNEY is extremely important for continuity in faith development and faith experience.**
- **Start time:** All students should be in the classroom and ready to begin at the start of their designated time track. Late arrivals disrupt the instructional time for all students. When ChrisTeen students do arrive late, they must report to the **Religious Education** office upon entering the building. Elementary age students should report directly to class.
- Transfiguration requires students to attend 80% of the scheduled classes to complete grade level requirements. For most classes, this equals 5 absences for the school year.
- When a student has been absent 3 times, parents will be contacted. If a student misses 5 classes, parents will again be contacted, alerting them that make-up work must be completed to satisfy course completion. Make-up work for missed classes can be obtained by contacting the JOURNEY office.
- To receive credit for makeup work, it must be submitted with 80% accuracy within 2 weeks of notification.
- If a student misses more than 5 classes, under “normal circumstances,” the grade level curriculum for the school year will be incomplete.
- All make-up work must be completed in the current school year.
- **Reporting absences:** Parents should contact the Religious Education office, **770-977-1442, ext. 125**, if their students will not be attending class. All unreported absences are considered “unexcused”. Class work should be made up for all missed classes (excused and unexcused).

Behavior

All students will:

- Be courteous, respectful, and helpful to all teachers, adults, and fellow students
- Use appropriate language
- Speak kindly and respectfully to and about others
- Complete class assignments and participate in class
- Walk in the building (no running) during Journey classes
- Refrain from chewing gum, eating, or drinking in the building (without permission)
- Remain quiet in the hallways and church areas
- Use restroom facilities before coming to class
- Refrain from disruptive behavior in the building or at carpool
- Respect Transfiguration property and the property of others
- Be responsible for their actions and the consequences of those actions

For the safety of the students and the minimization of classroom disruptions, certain items should not be brought to JOURNEY class. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

real/toy knives	real/toy guns	cell phones/MP3 players/other electronic devices
skateboards	sharp objects	matches/lighters
any toys from home		

These items are subject to confiscation. Items that are confiscated will be returned to parents only.

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Cell phones must be OFF and OUT-OF-SIGHT during class.

Dress Code

Wear appropriate clothing for a learning environment, no T-Shirts with inappropriate logos or messages. The same clothing expectations & rules that apply in school, apply in Church.

Restroom Breaks

Students younger than 9th grade are not permitted to go to the restroom or to get water during class unless accompanied by a catechist or aide. There are NO exceptions to this policy. **Please remind your child to use the restroom before class starts to avoid disruptions.**

Discipline

It is **JOURNEY** policy to discipline with love and understanding. Catechists will assist students in setting classroom guidelines that reinforce Christian attitudes. However, **JOURNEY** catechists are volunteers and are not expected to handle serious or on-going discipline problems. All catechists are encouraged to notify **JOURNEY** staff of such issues in a timely manner to avoid undue stress and classroom interruption.

Students who choose to ignore requests to modify their behavior in the classroom will be sent to the office. The first time a student comes to the office, behavior expectations will be discussed with the student. If problems persist and the student is sent to the office a second time, parents will be called. If there is still no improvement, the student may be dismissed from the program.

Emergencies

Student Illness/Injury: Sick or injured students will be accompanied to the office by one of their catechists. The **Religious Education** office staff will notify a parent. Medication, including over-the-counter medications, will NOT be dispensed by anyone except the student's parent. Verbal permission will not be accepted. Parents must come in to the **Religious Education** office to dispense medication or pick up their child. In the case of serious, potentially life threatening situations, emergency medical personnel will be called immediately. **Please note:** On ChrisTeen retreats/trips, special arrangements will be made if your child needs medication. Please consult with the ChrisTeen office.

Emergency Procedures:

Emergency plans are posted in all classrooms. Catechists will familiarize themselves and their students with the posted plans.

Fire Drills:

Fire and emergency drills will be conducted annually. Whenever the fire alarm sounds, an announcement will be made for complete evacuation of the building. All fire alarms are to be treated seriously by everyone in the building and appropriate actions taken immediately:

- Everyone should remain calm; students will follow their catechist's cue.
- Catechists will count students before leaving and take a class list with them.
- Catechists will quietly take students to the designated exit. The last one leaving will close the door.
- Once outside, students should not walk on a sidewalk with a red curb. This is where the emergency vehicles will be parked.
- Students in the downstairs classrooms will line up, by class, on the grass area in front of the church building. Students in the upstairs classrooms will line up by class in the side parking lot by the dumpster. No one is permitted to move to another class.
- Catechists will do another head count.
- Upon hearing the all-clear signal, classes will proceed back into the building in a quiet and orderly manner.
- Once inside the classroom, catechists will count their students again.

Tornado Warnings:

Tornado drill procedures are posted in all classrooms. Catechists will familiarize themselves and their students with them. There will be one tornado drill held in during the second semester. Whenever the tornado warning sounds, an announcement will be made throughout the building. All tornado warnings are to be treated seriously by everyone in the building and appropriate actions taken immediately:

- Everyone should remain calm; students will follow their catechist's cue.
- Catechists and students in classrooms/areas upstairs will proceed to designated areas in a quiet and orderly manner.
- Students will sit on the floor, facing the wall, using their arms to protect their heads.
- Parents in cars in the parking lot should come to the Adult Ed/OCI Room for safety. Students will not be dismissed until the warning has passed.
- Upon hearing the all-clear signal, classes will resume.

Transfiguration Catholic Church Internet Acceptable Use Policy

As part of our Digital Catechesis Committee Technology initiative, all classrooms are wired for internet use. Our goal is to provide opportunities to use technology so all our parish family can learn about God and our Catholic faith through experience. Catechists are encouraged to use technology that is appropriate and meaningful to enhance the lesson. Videos must be approved prior to class use, please send the link for preview to your program coordinator. Below is the acceptable use policy for utilizing the internet. All catechists, parents and students should be familiar with this policy.

Transfiguration Catholic Church is happy to provide Internet service in our facility for educational and recreational purposes. It is understood that there are many reasons for the use of the internet, and therefore considering these, this policy has been adopted to ensure that internet use in our facilities is of a Christian spirit and of moral nature.

All users of the Internet are subject to follow these rules and regulations:

- All illegal activities are strictly prohibited.
- The use of profanity, vulgarities, or other inappropriate language is prohibited.
- The use of an identity other than the user's own is prohibited.
- Use of the Internet to access inappropriate matter is prohibited. Inappropriate material includes but is not limited to: obscene or lewd material; sexually explicit material; threatening, abusive, harassing, and/or illegally damaging of reputation to another person; demeaning to genders, race, ethnicity, religion, and/or national origins.
- Uploading and intentionally spreading viruses, vandalizing data, infiltrating systems, or any other abuse of the network is strictly prohibited.
- Supervising adults and/or staff members have the right to determine whether material or use of the internet is inappropriate.

Internet access is a privilege. Any inappropriate use of this privilege will result in a cancellation of the privilege for the user and may result in further disciplinary action subject to the discretion of the staff members.

Guidelines for Internet Safety

Full name, address, telephone number, social security number, or any other personal information should never be provided on-line.

Messages that make a user feel uncomfortable or from unknown origin should not be responded to. Tell a supervising adult, staff member, or your parent if you receive messages of this nature.

Photos should only be posted with the approval of a parent and should not include a full name.

Face-to-face meetings with someone a user met on-line should not be arranged.

"The new it has to offer for communications." Pope Benedict XVI, 43rd World Communications Day digital technologies are, indeed, bringing about fundamental shifts in patterns of communication and human relationships. These changes are particularly evident among those young people who have grown up with the new technologies and are at home in a digital world that often seems quite foreign to those of us who, as adults, have had to learn to understand and appreciate the opportunities Message

Volunteers

Parents, teens, and other adults are encouraged to assist in reinforcing the value of Catholic, Christian education in the community by volunteering as catechists (teachers and co-teachers), aides, substitute teachers, office volunteers, nursery volunteers, carpool volunteers, mentors, etc. Interested individuals should contact the [Religious Education](#) office for more information.

Parking: Volunteers should park at the rear entrance of the church and enter through the rear doors of the foyer. This will ensure that volunteers (and their children) are not crossing traffic during carpool dismissal.

Forms: All volunteers having regular contact with youth must have these completed forms on file:

- Volunteer Application
- Background Check
- Abuse Policy
- Ministerial Standards
- VIRTUS Training
- Driver Form (if applicable)
- Code of Conduct
- Social Media Form

Substitute Catechists: It is [Religious Education](#) policy to have two adults (or one adult and one teenage aide) present in each classroom. When catechists are unable to attend class, they must contact their teaching partner and make sure the partner is prepared for the lesson. Catechists may then call on parents to come and assist in class that day. All substitutes are required to check in at the Journey desk before proceeding to class. For last minute absences, the [Religious Education](#) office should be called immediately.

Recognition:

- Sunday, **September 13**, has been designated as Catechetical Sunday. All Religious Education volunteers will be commissioned at all the Masses. Volunteers with name tags should wear them to Mass that weekend.
- The annual *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner* will be Thursday, **March 4 at 6:30 pm**. All volunteers are invited to attend.

Nursery:

Nursery will be available during all time tracks for the children of catechists and other volunteers. Arrangements must be made at least 5 days in advance,

<https://transfiguration.com/get-involved/ministries/nursery/>

Youth Ministry Board (YMB)

This committee, composed of adults and high school committee chairpersons, assists Religious Education staff and catechists in the creation and implementation of many ChrisTeen events/activities. Some of the committee positions are elected, while others are appointments. For more information and a list of current board members, individuals should contact the ChrisTeen office.

Peer Ministry and ChrisTeen Committees

Teens are elected by their peers to provide feedback about ChrisTeen and plan events and activities for the young Church. Teens attend the Leadership Retreat in August for skill development and to begin planning for the upcoming year. All Peer Ministers serve on one of the following committees: Justice and Service, Liturgy and Worship, Community Life, or Evangelization. Committees meet the first Tuesday of every month, **7:30-9:00 p.m.** All teens are encouraged to get involved in planning ChrisTeen events and meetings are open to everyone in grades 6-12.

Protecting God's Children Training

This special presentation (at age appropriate levels) empowers students to stand up for their right to live and learn in a safe environment. It focuses on identifying unsafe situations and appropriate actions/responses. It is not "sex" education. Parents must provide written permission for their students to attend or not attend this presentation.

Family Custodial Situations

Transfiguration abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment with respect to the rights of non-custodial parents.

In cases of an actual divorce decree involving clear custody by one parent, Transfiguration's Director of Religious Education (DRE) must be informed by the custodial parent. A copy of the first page of the decree bearing the case number, the pages referring to custody and the relationship with the school, and the final page bearing the judge's signature are to be submitted to the DRE. Unless the decree indicates otherwise, **JOURNEY** communications will be sent home to the parent with primary physical custody.

Unless restricted by Court Order, any non-custodial parent has the right to attend **JOURNEY** or Parish activities with their child. This includes Sacrament preparation meetings, family retreats, Sacrament celebrations, as well as other Children's Liturgy or **JOURNEY** events.

If there is a court order specifying that there is to be no information given to the non-custodial parent, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the DRE with an official copy of the court order. Additionally, it is the custodial parent's responsibility to inform the DRE if a child should NOT be released to a non-custodial parent.

It is assumed that both parents are communicating regarding the child and that all information is shared by the parents. This information includes, but is not limited to, parent meetings, Sacramental preparation, make-up work, assessments, and discussions with program personnel.

If there are questions concerning this re-statement of procedures or there are circumstances that necessitate other arrangements, individuals should contact the DRE.

Suspected Abuse

Effective July 1, 2012 child abuse reporting rules in Georgia defined "child service organization personnel" in the Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse Law. If a student discloses any form of abuse to Journey volunteers, the volunteers will immediately report this information to the Department of Youth and Family Services and the Religious Education staff. The volunteers and staff will follow the policies and guidelines established by Transfiguration in compliance with the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Cobb County, and the State of Georgia.

CARPOOL PLANS

**Please note: more carpool volunteers are needed.
Call the [Religious Education](#) office to volunteer.**

Student safety is the primary concern of staff and volunteers during carpool. The Archdiocese of Atlanta and Transfiguration have established a plan for the safe dismissal of students from Religious Education classes. It is specifically designed to keep people out of the path of moving traffic. **This is the only approved method for picking up students, and everyone is expected to adhere to it.** Parents who tell their children to meet them at another church entrance, in the church foyer, or at a classroom are in violation of the safety procedures mandated by the Archdiocese. This also sets a poor example for the students, teaching them to disregard established policies. Anyone with reservations about using this carpool system should contact the pastor of Transfiguration.

It is the parents' responsibility to notify the [Religious Education Office](#) staff of any individuals who are NOT allowed to sign out or pick up their child(ren).

During carpool, catechists will accompany their class to the loading area, monitor student behavior, and stay with their class until all students from the class have been picked up.

Monday and Wednesday Classes

- Students will be dismissed in the circular drive in front of the church.
- Parents must enter the church parking lot using the driveway adjacent to the Family Promise House.
- Volunteers will line up cars in Rows 1, 2, 3, and 4. When these rows are filled, cars will be lined up in Rows 6, 7, and 8. Drivers should not leave their cars unattended in the carpool line or block parked cars.
- When dismissal begins, volunteers will direct cars in Row 1 to the pick up area, followed by cars in Row 2, etc.
- To expedite carpool, drivers should display the names and grades of their students (in large print) on the right side of the windshield. Students will only be allowed to enter vehicles on the passenger side. Drivers should rearrange seating prior to entering the loading area.
- When drivers follow the directions of carpool volunteers, 4 cars can be loaded at one time. All students are escorted to the loading vehicles. It is extremely dangerous to pass other vehicles in the loading zone. Such carelessness will not be tolerated.

Sunday 8:20 JOURNEY Dismissal

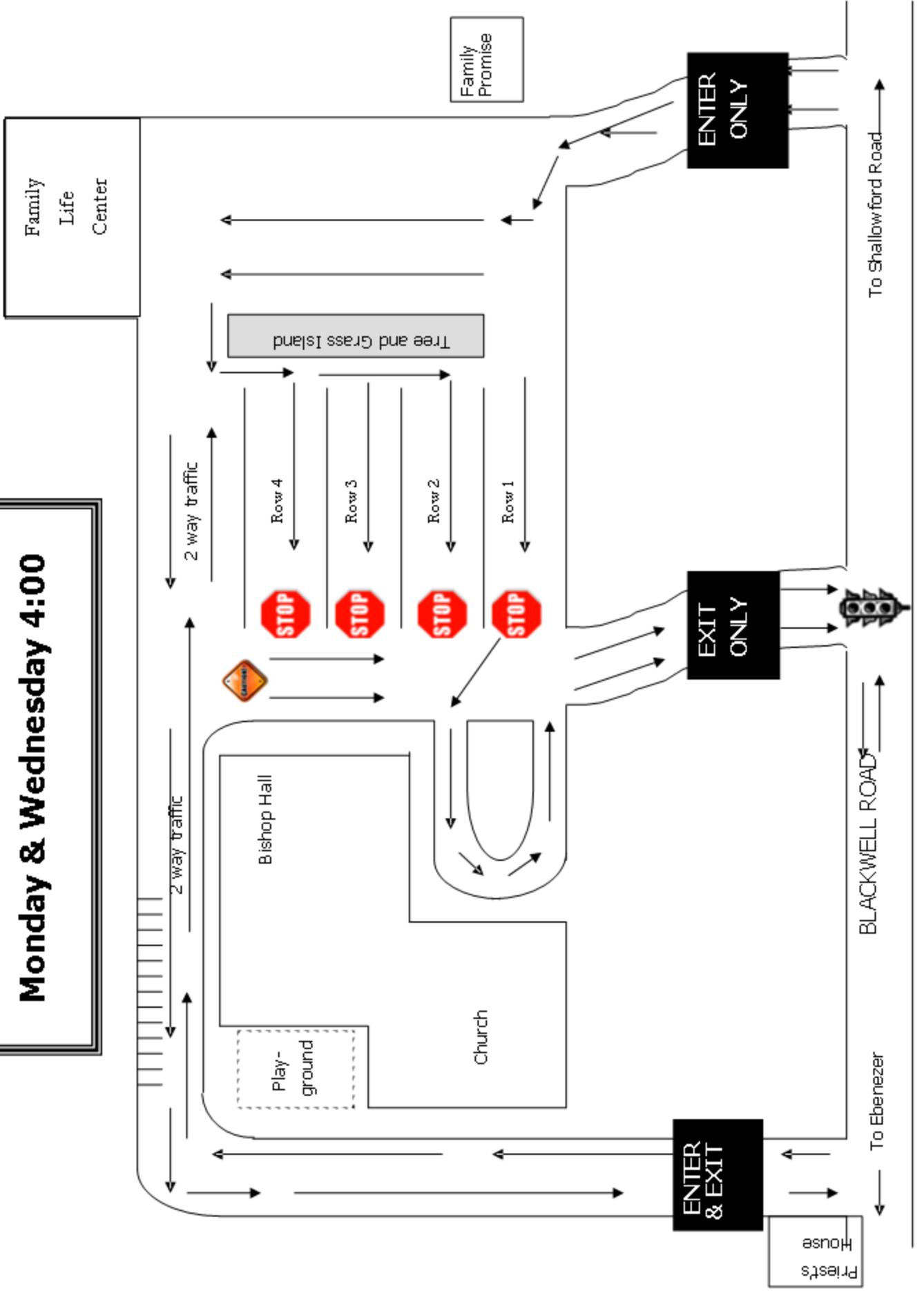
- To ensure safety of the students, the Drop off & Dismissal procedures for this class time will be the same as the preschool policy on page 20.

**PLEASE respect and follow directions given
by our carpool VOLUNTEERS!**

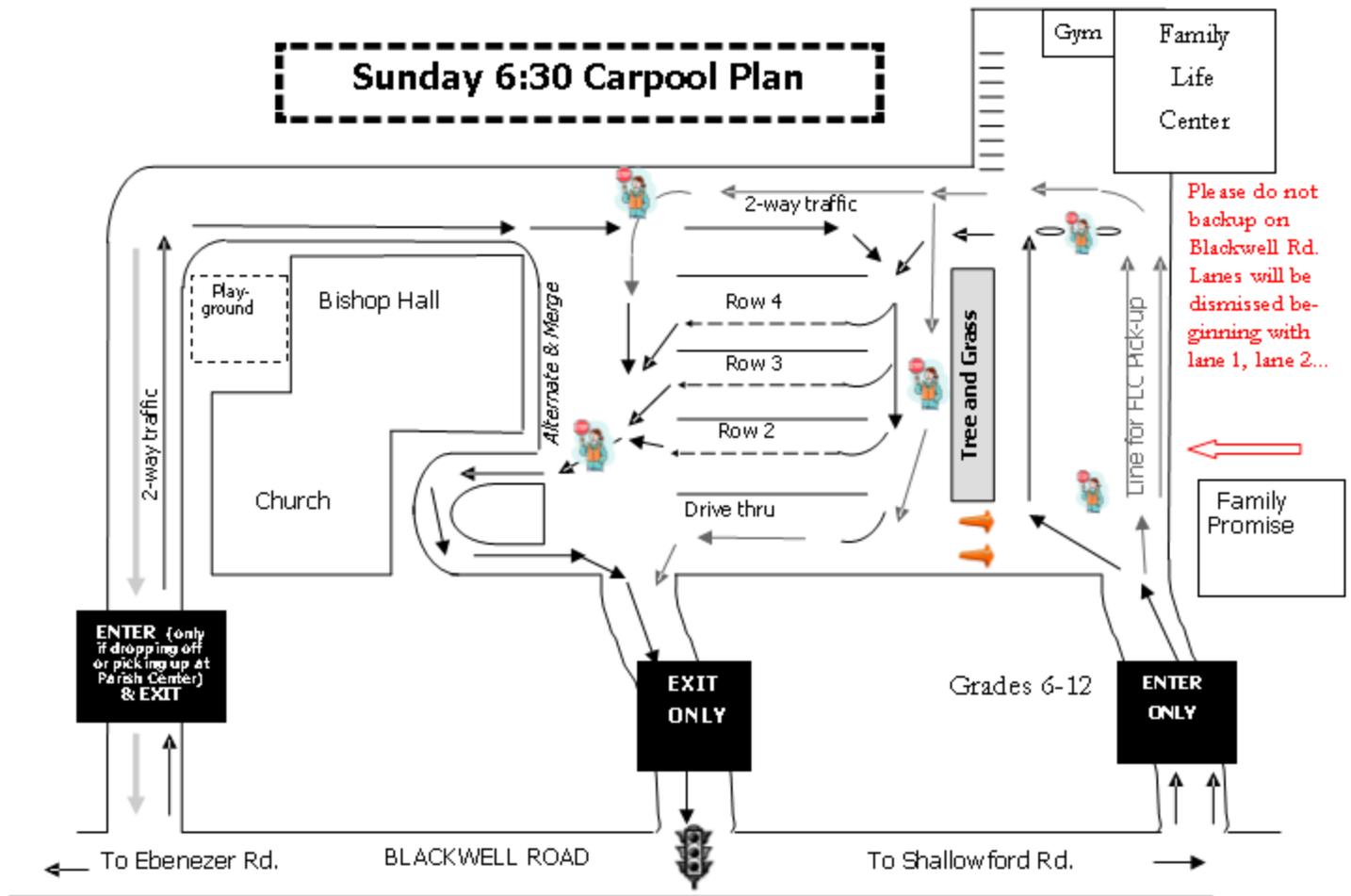
**When their directions are
followed, carpool runs much quicker, smoother
and is safer for all involved.**



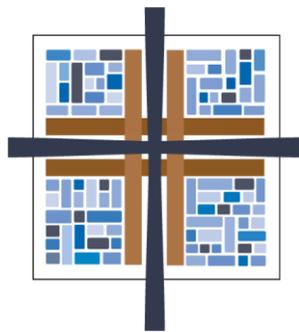
Monday & Wednesday 4:00



Sunday 6:30 Carpool Plan



- Picking up at FLC, if NOT going to Parish Center, exit through Row 1. If picking up at Parish Center, merge at corner of Bishop Hall.
- Picking up at Parish Center only
- Teens who drive. If parked behind Church and safe to exit, follow orange lines. If can't exit behind Church,



The Catholic Church of the Transfiguration
1815 Blackwell Road
Marietta, GA 30066
770-977-1442
www.transfiguration.com