

<b>APRIL</b>		
Saturday 06	10:00am 11:00am	<i>Special Baptisms in English/St. Wenceslaus Special Baptisms in Spanish/St. Wenceslaus</i>
Sunday 07	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Sunday 14	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Saturday 20	8:45am 3:00pm	<i>RETREAT /2<sup>nd</sup> year Confirmation St. Viator/ Parish Hall</i>
Sunday 21	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Tuesday 23	6:30pm	<i>Mandatory Confirmation Rehearsal for Students and Sponsors/St. Viator</i>
Friday 26	7:00pm	<b><i>CONFIRMATION MASS/St. Viator</i></b>
Sunday 28	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Retreat for First Communion candidates Parish Hall</i>
Monday 29	7:00pm	<i>Mandatory First Communion Rehearsal for students and parents Spanish/St. Wenceslaus</i>
Tuesday 30	7:00pm	<i>Mandatory First Communion Rehearsal for students and parents English//St. Wenceslaus</i>

<b>MAY</b>		
Saturday 04	10:00am	<b><i>FIRST COMMUNION MASS</i></b> <i>English// St. Wenceslaus</i>
Saturday 04	12:30pm	<b><i>FIRST COMMUNION MASS</i></b> <i>Spanish/ St. Wenceslaus</i>

# SS. Viator & Wenceslaus Parish

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s sviatorwences.org



SS Viator Wenceslaus Parish -  
Chicago



## WELCOME

TO OUR  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM  
2023-2024

SS. Viator and Wenceslaus Parish rejoices in sharing the religious education of your children. Our main mission is to assist the whole family in their spiritual growth, offering solid knowledge about our Catholic Christian faith and promoting encounters with Christ through the experience of the liturgy, prayer and integration into the life of the Church as a community.



<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Sunday 04	11:15am 12:45pm	Religious Education and Parent Formation
Sunday 11	11:15am 12:45pm	Religious Education and Parent Formation
Wednesday 14	See the bulletin	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
Sunday 18	11:15am 12:45pm	<b>1st SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Religious Education and Parent Formation
Sunday 25	11:15am 12:45pm	<b>2nd SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Religious Education and Parent Formation

<b>MARCH</b>		
Saturday 02	9:30am	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> For First Communion Candidates Spanish/ St. Wenceslaus
Sunday 03	11:15am 12:45pm	<b>3rd SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Religious Education and Parent Formation
Saturday 09	9:30am	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> For First Communion Candidates English/ St. Viator
Sunday 10	11:15am 12:45pm	<b>4th SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Religious Education and Parent Formation
Sunday 17	11:15am 12:45pm	<b>5th SUNDAY OF LENT</b> Religious Education and Parent Formation
Sunday 24	11:15am 12:45pm	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Religious Education and Parent Formation
Holy Thursday 28	See the bulletin	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>
Good Friday 29	See the bulletin	<b>The Passion of the Lord</b>
Easter Vigil 30	See the bulletin	<b>Easter Vigil Mass</b>
Sunday 31	See the bulletin	<b>Easter Sunday/ Attend Mass</b> <b>Happy Easter!</b>

**Holy Week**

<b>DECEMBER</b>		
<b>Sunday 03</b>	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>1st. SUNDAY OF ADVENT Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
<b>Friday 08</b>	See the bulletin	<i>Holy Day of Obligation for the Immaculate Conception of Mary</i>
<b>Sunday 10</b>	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
<b>Tuesday 12</b>	See the bulletin	<i>Feast in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
<b>Sunday 17</b>	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
<b>Sunday 24</b>	8:30am/W/Eng. 11:30am/W/ Sp. 10:00am/ V/Eng. 1:00pm/V/Sp.	<i>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT There is no Religious Education or Parent Formation/Attend Mass</i>
<b>Sunday 24</b>	See the bulletin	<i>Christmas Eve Mass/ Attend Mass</i>
<b>Monday 25</b>	See the bulletin	<i>Christmas Day Mass Holy Day of Obligation/Attend Mass</i>
<b>Sunday 31</b>	8:30am/W/Eng. 11:30am/W/ Sp. 10:00am/ V/Eng. 1:00pm/V/Sp.	<i>New Year's Eve Mass</i>
<b>JANUARY</b>		
<b>Monday 01</b>	See the bulletin	<i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation. Attend Mass</i>
<b>Sunday 07</b>	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
<b>Sunday 14</b>	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
<b>Sunday 21</b>	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
<b>Sunday 28</b>	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation VIRTUS Class for Students</i>
<b>Monday 29</b>	7:00pm 8:00pm	<i>Meeting for Parents &amp; Sponsors 2nd year Confirmation (Spanish ) Parish (English ) Parish Hall</i>

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

### 1. What is the mission of SS. Viator and Wenceslaus Parish?

- To help the whole family in their spiritual growth, offering solid knowledge about the Catholic Christian faith and promoting profound encounters with Christ through the experience of the liturgy, prayer and integration into the life of the Church as a community.

### 2. What is the vision of the Program?

- To form Catholic families of faith in which children and youth learn and live their faith and grow through their participation in liturgy, especially the Holy Eucharist.

### 3. What is the structure of the Program?

- A complete program structured for the education and formation of the family
- A Religious Education that is for children, youth and parents
- A Program in which the parents are the primary catechists of their children. The person providing catechesis on Sundays is assisting the parents.
- A Program that unites families through the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist

### 4. What is necessary for a successful Program?

- Assuming together the responsibility of being a model of faith
- Participating together as parents and children in the Holy Mass every Sunday
- Celebrating the sacraments together as a family as they are the heart of our faith
- Support the lessons received through Religious Education in the home

\*Remember that parents are catechists.\*

# CODE OF CONDUCT AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

**5. How can parents help their children during the course?**

- Parents and children should participate with interest in the required activities
- Parents should help their children with the lessons
- Parents should help their children learn their prayers at home
- Participation at Sunday Mass should be an essential part of the formation
- Parents should join their children on their journey of formation

**6. What is the code of conduct for parents and children?**

- Be punctual to all events
- Act according to the values of the Gospel and Christian life
- Be obedient and respectful
- Treat others with kindness and respect
- Any inappropriate behavior will be reported to the Pastor
- If the behavior continues, he/she will be expelled from the program
- Graffiti is totally prohibited in our facilities as is the consumption of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or any dangerous substance. If someone is caught engaging in any of these actions, they will face immediate expulsion from the Religious Education Program.

**7. What is the age requirement for the first course for First Communion?**

- First Grade or higher in school

**8. What is the age requirement for the first course for Confirmation?**

- Seventh Grade or higher in school

**9. How long will we need to participate in the program in order for my child to receive the sacrament?**

- Two courses of eight (8) months each
- Each course begins in September and ends in April

Religious Education Sessions are Sundays: 11:15am —12:45pm. Children and parents should be in their respective rooms to begin with prayer no later than 11:10am. Mass attendance is required every Sunday:  
**10:00am English or 1:00pm Spanish**

<b>SEPTEMBER</b> Sunday 24	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>WELCOME/CHURCH Mandatory ORIENTATION for Parents &amp; Students ASSIGNMENT OF CATECHISTS/ROOMS Distribution of Materials</i>
<b>OCTOBER</b> Sunday 01	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Sunday 08	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Saturday 14	8:45am 3:00 pm	<i>Retreat for 2nd year Confirmation/Parish Hall</i>
Sunday 15	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Sunday 22	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Sunday 29	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
<b>NOVEMBER</b> Wednesday 01	See the bulletin	<i>All Saints Day -Holy Day of Obligation Attend Mass</i>
Thursday 02	See the bulletin	<i>Commemoration of all Saints day</i>
Sunday 05	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Sunday 12	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Sunday 19	11:15am 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>
Sunday 26	8:30am/W 11:30am/W 10:00am/V 1:00pm/V	<i>Attend Mass. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!</i>

# SACRAMENTS

## 23. What is the dress code for First Communion?

- **Girls:** White dress (simple), Crown and short veil (optional), White shoes (optional), Gloves (optional)
- **Boys:** Black pants, white dress shirt, tie or bowtie (optional), Black shoes, suit (optional). No jeans or sweatpants. No sports shoes.

## 24. What is the dress code for Confirmation?

- **Young Ladies:** No extremely short dresses or skirts, no revealing necklines, no fluorescent colors or patterns
- **Young Men:** Pants and dress shirt with dress shoes. No sports clothes or shoes. Suit and tie (optional)

## 25. What are the requirements to serve as a sponsor (Godparent)?

- A Catholic who lives and practices their faith
- A person over the age of 16
- A person who has received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation
- A person not affected by a canonical penalty. For example, if they are married, they should have received the Sacrament of Marriage
- A person who is not the mother or father of the person receiving the sacrament
- The Catholic Church only requires sponsors (Godparents) for the Sacraments that are received once: Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.
- **Sponsors (Godparents) are not required for First Communion** (optional)

## 10. What are the requirements for my child to receive First Communion?

- Complete two courses of eight (8) months each
- Complete (candidates and parents) all of the parish requirements
- Receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation. (*The dates for confessions found in the calendar are only for those completing their second course for First Communion*).
- Participate in the parish retreat during the second course for First Communion
- Paid the total contribution for the Program
- Learn the basic teachings of our faith for their age level
- Demonstrate interest (candidates and parents) in receiving the Sacrament

## 11. What are the requirements for my child to receive Confirmation?

- Complete two courses of eight (8) months each
- Complete (candidates and parents) all of the parish requirements
- Receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Communion. (*There is no specific date for confessions for Confirmation candidates. We hope that they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly*).
- Participate in two (2) retreats during the second course for Confirmation.
- Paid the total contribution for the Program
- Learn the basic teachings of our faith for their age level
- Demonstrate interest (candidates and parents) in receiving the Sacrament
- Completed 10 hours of service in the Church. (*The dates and times for service will be assigned*)

## 12. Is it necessary to prepare before receiving a Sacrament?

- Yes because it is through the sacraments that we establish a connection to God
- Yes because it is important to learn the basic teachings of our faith
- Yes because learning about our faith helps us to celebrate the sacraments as one community

### **13. Is it enough to complete the two courses and receive the Sacrament? NO**

- Receiving the First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation is not a graduation. It is the beginning of a more personal relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist
- Receiving a sacrament signifies living it every day
- Each sacrament helps us develop our relationship with Jesus
- Every baptized Catholic should celebrate his/her faith through attendance at Holy Mass on Sundays

### **14. Is it necessary for parents to participate in the Program?**

- Yes because we learn about our faith in church and with the Church in order to live our faith as a family in our homes
- Yes because parents and catechists collaborate in the Christian formation of their children.
- Yes because the parent formation classes are an opportunity to learn more about our faith and enables us to help our children learn

### **15. Is it necessary to attend every session?**

- Yes, because the parent formation is related to what your child is receiving in their catechesis and this will help you share and learn together

### **16. Is the Mass part of the Program and required every Sunday?**

- Yes, the Mass is an essential part of the program
- Yes, parents and children should attend the entire Mass every Sunday
- Yes, because the participation at Mass every Sunday helps to prepare parents and children for the reception of the sacrament

### **17. Is our attendance at Mass monitored?**

- Yes, the Religious Education Program provides offering envelopes to all students which they will prepare and present at the altar every Sunday. The purpose is to teach the students about stewardship and supporting their parish. The parish office will maintain a record of their use.
- Parents will also receive their offering envelope which they should bring to Mass and deposit in the collection basket.
- If you attend Mass in another church, please ask the priest to forward the envelope to us as proof of your attendance.

## ADMINISTRATION

### **18. Why is a monetary contribution necessary?**

- Religious Education has no cost (Matthew 7:13). However, the material items and maintenance of facilities necessary for the program do have a cost.
- Your contribution helps with the cost of catechist formation, printing, telephone, electricity, heat, maintenance and other materials
- If you are experiencing serious financial difficulty, please call the parish office
- The total contribution should be paid in full by December 18.

### **19. What is the contribution amount per course?**

- \$120.00 per child, per course

### **20. What should I do if I have a family emergency?**

- Attendance is a requirement for parents and children
- Three excused absences are permitted
- An excused absence requires you to phone the parish office ahead of time or provide a written note explaining the absence
- Three unexcused absences including at Sunday Mass, may mean your child will have to repeat the course
- Parents and students should be punctual to each session and to Mass
- It is important that parents and students take seriously their responsibility in attending the sessions

### **21. What should I do if my address changes?**

- Please notify the Religious Education Office immediately
- Every family and student participating in the Religious Education Program is required to be a registered and active member of SS. Viator and Wenceslaus Parish

### **22. What should I provide if my child attended Religious Education classes in another parish?**

- A letter certifying your child's participation in that parish's program