

APRIL		
Holy Thursday 02	See the bulletin	<i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>
Good Friday 03	See the bulletin	<i>The Passion of the Lord</i>
Easter Vigil 04	See the bulletin	<i>Easter Vigil Mass</i>
Easter Sunday 05	See the bulletin	EASTER SUNDAY/Attend Mass/Happy Easter
Saturday 11	10:00am	<i>Special Baptisms in English/St. Viator Site</i>
Saturday 11	12:00am	<i>Special Baptisms in Spanish/St. Viator Site</i>
Saturday 11	10:45am to 2:00pm	RETREAT /2 nd year Confirmation St. Viator site/ Parish Hall
Sunday 12	11:15am to 12:45pm	2ND. SUNDAY OF EASTER/ DIVINE MERCY Religious Education & Parent Formation
Monday 13	7:00pm	Mandatory Confirmation Rehearsal for Students and Sponsors/St. Viator Site
Saturday 18	12:00pm 5:00pm	CONFIRMATION MASS/St. Viator Site
Sunday 19	11:15am to 12:45pm	3RD. SUNDAY OF EASTER/ Religious Education & Parent Formation
Sunday 26	11:15am to 12:45	Meeting with First Communion Catechists/ St. Joseph Center

Holy Week

MAY		
Sunday 03	11:15am to 12:45pm	Retreat for First Communion Candidates St. Viator Site/Parish Hall/Attend Mass
Monday 04	7:00pm	Mandatory First Communion Rehearsal for students and parents/Spanish/St. Viator Site
Tuesday 05	7:00pm	Mandatory First Communion Rehearsal for students and parents/ English/St. Viator Site
Saturday 09	10:00am	FIRST COMMUNION MASS English/St. Viator Site
Saturday 09	12:30pm	FIRST COMMUNION MASS Spanish/ St. Viator Site

SS. Viator & Wenceslaus Parish

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SS Viator Wenceslaus Parish—Chicago



WELCOME

TO OUR
RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
PROGRAM
2025-2026

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



FEBRUARY		
Sunday 01	11:15am to 12:45pm	Religious Education & Parent Formation
Sunday 08	11:15am to 12:45pm	Religious Education & Parent Formation
Sunday 15	11:15am to 12:45pm	Religious Education & Parent Formation
Wednesday 18	See the bulletin	ASH WEDNESDAY
Saturday 21	9:00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation for First Communion Candidates /Spanish/ St. Viator Site
Sunday 22	11:15am to 12:45pm	1st SUNDAY OF LENT Religious Education & Parent Formation
Saturday 28	9:00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation for First Communion Candidates /Spanish/ St. Viator Site
MARCH		
Sunday 01	11:15am to 12:45pm	2nd SUNDAY OF LENT Religious Education & Parent Formation
Saturday 07	9:00am to 12:00pm	Lent Parish Retreat, St. Viator Site Parent and student participation
Sunday 08		3rd SUNDAY OF LENT Attend Mass/No Religious Ed. Class
Saturday 14	9:00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation for First Communion Candidates//English/ St. Viator Site
Sunday 15	11:15am to 12:45pm	4th SUNDAY OF LENT Religious Education & Parent Formation
Saturday 21	9:00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation for First Communion Candidates/English/ St. Viator Site
Sunday 22	11:15am to 12:45pm	5th SUNDAY OF LENT Religious Education & Parent Formation
Saturday 28	9:00am	Sacrament of Reconciliation for RCIA/English and English// St. Viator Site
Sunday 29	11:15am to 12:45pm	PALM SUNDAY Religious Education & Parent Formation

DECEMBER Saturday 06	9:00am to 12:00pm	Advent Parish Retreat, St. Viator Site Parents and student participation
Sunday 07		2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Attend Mass/No Religious Ed. Class
Monday 08	See the bulletin	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
Friday 12	See the bulletin	Feast in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sunday 14	11:15am to 12:45pm	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Religious Education & Parent Formation
Saturday 20	6:30pm	Posada, participate Communion Year 1
Sunday 21	6:30pm	Posada, participate Communion Year 2
Sunday 21	11:15am to 12:45pm	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT Religious Education & Parent Formation
Monday 22	6:30pm	Posada, participate Confirmation Year 1
Tuesday 23	6:30pm	Posada, participate Confirmation Year 2
Wednesday 24	See the bulletin	Christmas Eve Mass/ Attend Mass
Thursday 25	See the bulletin	Attend Christmas Mass: Holy Day of Obligation
Sunday 28	See the bulletin	Holy Family/ Attend Mass/No Religious Ed. Class
Wednesday 31	See the bulletin	New Year's Eve Mass
JANUARY Thursday 01	See the bulletin	Holy Day of Obligation Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God/ Attend Mass
Sunday 04	11:15am to 12:45pm	Religious Education & Parent Formation
Sunday 11	11:15am to 12:45pm	Religious Education & Parent Formation
Sunday 18	11:15am to 12:45pm	Religious Education & Parent Formation
Sunday 25	11:15am to 12:45pm	VIRTUS/Religious Education & Parent Formation
Monday 26	7:00pm to 8:30pm	Meeting: Parents & Sponsors/2 nd year Confirmation. English(Parish Hall) Spanish (Church)

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 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 that supports parents in their role as the primary catechists for 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 .
- Recognizing the beauty and power of the sacraments, and celebrating them as a family.
- 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. (For security purposes, the school and St. Joseph Center doors are **locked promptly at 11:20a.m.**)
- Act according to the values of the Gospel and Christian life.
- Be obedient and respectful.
- Treat others with kindness and respect.
- Persistent bad behavior will result in expulsion from the program.
- Graffiti is totally prohibited in our facilities and the consumption of tobacco, intoxicating drinks, drugs or any substances dangerous to health. Any violation of this kind will result in immediate expulsion from the 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 for catechesis no later than 11:10am to begin with prayer. Mass attendance is required every Sunday: **10:00am English or 1:00pm Spanish**

SEPTEMBER			WELCOME/CHURCH
Sunday	14	11:15am to 12:45pm	Mandatory ORIENTATION for Parents & Students ASSIGNMENT OF CATECHISTS/ROOMS Distribution of Materials
Sunday	21	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i>
Sunday	28	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i>
OCTOBER			
Sunday	05	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i>
Sunday	12	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i>
Sunday	19	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i>
Sunday	26	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i>
NOVEMBER			
Saturday	01	See the bulletin	<i>All Saints Day</i>
Sunday	02	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i> <i>Commemoration of all Souls Day</i>
Sunday	09	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i>
Sunday	16	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i>
Sunday	23	11:15am to 12:45pm	<i>Religious Education & Parent Formation</i> <i>Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</i>
Sunday	30		1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>Attend Mass/No Religious Ed. Class/ 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 and 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.
- Full payment of all program tuition and fees.
- Learn the basic teachings of our faith for their age level.
- Demonstrate an age appropriate knowledge of the Catholic faith.

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.
- Full payment of all program tuition and fees.
- Learn the basic teachings of our faith for their age level.
- Demonstrate an age appropriate knowledge of the Catholic faith.
- 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 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 parents are the primary educators of the faith for their children (the Domestic Church). Lessons learned in the program will not be fully effective without the full participation and integration of the faith in the life of the home.

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 21.

19. What is the contribution amount per course?

- **2025-2026:** \$130.00 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 result in your child needing 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.