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| <b>APRIL</b>            |  |   |  |
| <b>Sunday 02</b>        | 11:15am<br>12:45pm   | <b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   | <b>H<br/>O<br/>L<br/>Y<br/>W<br/>E<br/>E<br/>K</b> |
| <b>Holy Thursday 06</b> | See the bulletin   | <b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>  |  |
| <b>Good Friday 07</b>   | See the bulletin   | <b>The Passion of the Lord</b>  |  |
| <b>Easter Vigil 08</b>  | See the bulletin   | <b>Easter Vigil Mass</b>  |  |
| <b>Sunday 09</b>        | 8:30am/W/Eng.<br>11:30am/W/ Sp.<br>10:00am/ V/Eng.<br>1:00am/V/Sp. | <b>Easter Sunday</b><br><b>Attend Mass</b><br><i>Happy Easter!</i>  |  |
| <b>Saturday 15</b>      | 10:00am<br>11:00am   | <i>Special Baptisms in English/St. Wenceslaus</i><br><i>Special Baptisms in Spanish/St. Wenceslaus</i>  |  |
| <b>Sunday 16</b>        | 11:15am<br>12:45pm   | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   |  |
| <b>Sunday 23</b>        | 11:15am<br>12:45pm   | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i><br><b>RETREAT /2<sup>nd</sup> year Confirmation</b><br><i>St. Viator/8:45-2:00pm/ School Hall</i> |  |
| <b>Tuesday 25</b>       | 6:30pm   | <i>Mandatory Confirmation Rehearsal</i><br><i>for Students and Sponsors/St. Viator</i>  |  |
| <b>Friday 28</b>        | 7:00pm   | <b>CONFIRMATION MASS/St. Viator</b>   |  |
| <b>Sunday 30</b>        | 8:45am<br>12:45pm  | <i>Retreat for First Communion candidates</i><br><i>Parish Hall</i>   |  |

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| <b>MAY</b>         |         |  |
| <b>Monday 01</b>   | 6:30pm  | <i>Mandatory First Communion Rehearsal</i><br><i>for students and parents</i><br><i>Spanish/St. Wenceslaus</i> |
| <b>Saturday 06</b> | 12:00pm | <b>FIRST COMMUNION MASS</b><br><i>Spanish/ St. Wenceslaus</i>  |
| <b>Monday 08</b>   | 6:30pm  | <i>Mandatory First Communion Rehearsal</i><br><i>For students and parents</i><br><i>English/St. Viator</i>     |
| <b>Saturday 13</b> | 10:00am | <b>FIRST COMMUNION MASS</b><br><i>English/St. Viator</i>   |

# SS. Viator & Wenceslaus Parish

4150 W. Addison St. Chicago, IL 60641

773 286-4041

VWRE@archchicago.org



ssviatorwences.org



SS Viator Wenceslaus Parish - Chicago



## WELCOME

TO OUR  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM

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.



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| <b>FEBRUARY</b>     |                    |  |
| <b>Sunday 05</b>    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>                              |
| <b>Sunday 12</b>    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>                              |
| <b>Sunday 19</b>    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>                              |
| <b>Wednesday 22</b> | See the bulletin   | <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>   |
| <b>Sunday 26</b>    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <b>1st SUNDAY OF LENT</b><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i> |

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| <b>MARCH</b>       |                    |   |
| <b>Saturday 04</b> | 9:30am             | <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation<br/>for First Communion Candidates<br/>Spanish/ St. Wenceslaus</i> |
| <b>Sunday 05</b>   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <b>2nd SUNDAY OF LENT</b><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>                      |
| <b>Saturday 11</b> | 9:30am             | <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation<br/>for First Communion Candidates<br/>English/ St. Viator</i>     |
| <b>Sunday 12</b>   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <b>3rd SUNDAY OF LENT</b><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>                      |
| <b>Sunday 19</b>   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <b>4th SUNDAY OF LENT</b><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>                      |
| <b>Sunday 26</b>   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <b>5th SUNDAY OF LENT</b><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>                      |

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| <b>DECEMBER</b><br>Sunday 04 | 11:15am<br>12:45pm   | <i>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i> |
| Thursday 08                  | See the bulletin   | <i>Holy Day of Obligation for the Immaculate Conception of Mary</i>            |
| Sunday 11                    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm   | <i>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i> |
| Monday 12                    | See the bulletin   | <i>Feast in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>                                 |
| Sunday 18                    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm   | <i>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i><br><i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i> |
| Saturday 24                  | See the bulletin   | <i>Christmas Eve Mass/ Attend Mass</i>   |
| Sunday 25                    | 8:30am/W/Eng.<br>11:30am/W/ Sp.<br>10:00am/ V/Eng.<br>1:00pm/V/Sp. | <i>Christmas Mass</i><br><i>Holy Day of Obligation/Attend Mass</i>             |
| Saturday 31                  | See the bulletin   | <i>New Year's Eve Mass</i>   |

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| <b>JANUARY</b><br>Sunday 01 | 8:30am/W/Eng.<br>11:30am/W/Sp.<br>10:00am/ V/Eng.<br>1:00pm/V/Sp. | <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i><br><i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i><br><i>Attend Mass</i> |
| Sunday 08                   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm  | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>  |
| Sunday 15                   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm  | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>  |
| Sunday 22                   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm  | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>  |
| Sunday 29                   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm  | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i><br><i>VIRTUS Class for Students</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

**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 the church no later than 11:10am to begin with prayer before moving to their respective rooms for catechesis.  
 Mass attendance is required every Sunday:  
**10:00am English or 1:00pm Spanish**

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| <b>SEPTEMBER</b><br>Sunday 25 | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <b>WELCOME/CHURCH</b><br><b>Mandatory ORIENTATION</b><br><b>for Parents &amp; Students</b><br><b>ASSIGNMENT OF CATECHISTS/ROOMS</b><br><b>Distribution of Materials</b> |
| <b>OCTOBER</b><br>Sunday 02   | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   |
| Sunday 09                     | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   |
| Saturday 15                   | 7:30am<br>3:30 pm  | <i>Archdiocese Holy Fire Retreat</i><br><i>2nd year Confirmation/ 7:30am-3:30pm</i>   |
| Sunday 16                     | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   |
| Sunday 23                     | 11:15am<br>12:45pm | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   |

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| <b>NOVEMBER</b><br>Friday 01 | See the bulletin                               | <i>All Saints Day -Holy Day of Obligation</i><br><i>Attend Mass</i>                     |
| Sunday 06                    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm                             | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   |
| Sunday 13                    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm                             | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   |
| Sunday 20                    | 11:15am<br>12:45pm                             | <i>Religious Education and Parent Formation</i>   |
| Sunday 27                    | 8:30am/W<br>11:30am/W<br>10:00am/V<br>1:00pm/V | <b>1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b><br><i>Attend Mass.</i><br><i>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