

## Children's Catechumenate at Christ the King Parish



**What is the Children's Catechumenate?** The Children's Catechumenate is a process for children who are seven years or older, who have not yet been baptized, and who would like to be fully received into the Catholic Church (that is, receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist). Children who are seven years or older, who have been baptized in another faith, or have received little or no formal faith formation in the Catholic Church and have not received his or her First Communion are also invited to participate in the process to prepare them for the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

The process helps children learn the faith of the Catholic Church in a small community environment. Along with the support of their families and sponsors, the children learn about the Catholic faith through the study of Scripture, the Mass, and the Sacraments. There is also a heavy emphasis on prayer.

**What is the process?** There are four periods in which the children participate in the development of their faith and relationship with Christ:

1. **Period of Evangelization and Pre-Catechumenate**-In this period, we help the children become a part of the parish community and give them a sense of the larger Catholic community through the study of the life of the saints and the development of a prayer life.
2. **Period of the Catechumenate**-During this period, we help the children develop a relationship with Jesus and gain an understanding of his teachings through his parables, miracles, and institution of the Sacraments. The children gain a knowledge of the Catholic faith. The sense of belonging to the parish community and the larger community of the Catholic Church is continued to be fostered.

- 3. Period of Purification and Enlightenment**-During this period, the children are prepared for initiation into the Catholic Church through the understanding of the Apostle's Creed, baptismal promises, and an intensified discussion of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. It is also a time where the students experience a retreat and the Lenten Rites, which help prepare them to receive the Sacraments of Initiation.

The Easter Vigil-Children are received into the Catholic Church during Easter Vigil Liturgy by receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

- 4. Mystagogy**-This is a period of revealing the mysteries of the faith by reflecting upon the events of Easter and upon the children's new life in Christ.

The whole process is geared for children by the teaching methods, retreats and field trips. If you are interested in having your child or children participate in the Children's Catechumenate, please contact Teresa Oross at 272-3113, ext. 312.