

# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC CHURCH



## *YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK 2025 – 2026*

Formal catechesis in a religious education program is only one aspect of a young person's lifelong faith formation. The formative process begins at birth. Most of the religious attitudes and values that children acquire come from their parents and home life. – Bishop Francis X.

DiLorenzo

Welcome to the St. Gregory the Great Parish Religious Education Program! We are excited to be working with you, as parents, to help your children grow in their faith. In presenting your student for Confirmation, parents accept the privilege and responsibility “to bring him/her up in the practice of the faith” (Rite of the Sacrament of Confirmation) We are happy to work with you to fulfill this promise. St. Gregory the Great Parish provides a Confirmation Formation experience for all students in need of this Sacrament, traditionally in the 10th grade for the Diocese of Richmond. Join us in some wonderful experiences as we grow in our Catholic faith!

# *MISSION STATEMENT*

The mission of Saint Gregory the Great's Religious Education Program is:

- To spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in union with all people through teaching, worship and witness
- To hand on the Catholic faith to the students and support the efforts of their parents, who are the primary educators
- To foster a knowledge of Jesus Christ and the development of a personal relationship with Him
- To instill in our students the necessary practices that will develop within them a strong Catholic culture that is essential to a Catholic identity
- To lead our students to be confident and faithful disciples of Jesus, who know and live their Catholic faith

## **STAFF**

**Sr. Emily Faubion, IHM**

Director of Adult Faith Formation/Director of Religious Education

[SrEmily@stgregorysva.org](mailto:SrEmily@stgregorysva.org)

Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Janet Ficca

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Church office: 757-497-8330

## **DIOCESAN RESOURCES**

Office of Evangelization Catholic Education, (804) 622-5159

Website of events: <https://evangelizerichmond.org/youth/>

# 2025-2026 | St. Gregory the Great Youth Group



**ST. GREGORY THE GREAT**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH | VIRGINIA BEACH

**Youth Group** is for 9-12th graders with occasional events open to 8th Graders. It is held on Tuesday from 6-8pm in the Youth House.

**Confirmation:** is for 10-12th graders. Confirmation classes consist of two Super Sundays. Families will have a choice of two dates to accommodate their schedule. These are held in the Youth House (269 Clearfield Ave) from 1 to 6 PM. Dinner is included.

Sept 30	Youth Group Kick-Off: Legacy Games	Mar 17	Youth Group Catechesis: Guy / Girl Night	<b>Confirmation Information</b>
Oct 7	Youth Group Opening Mass	Mar 24	Youth Group Catechesis: Evangelization (Bad Religion – Fanatic)	<b>Super Sunday #1</b> Oct 26 <sup>th</sup> or Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>
Oct 14	Youth Group Catechesis: Scripture (Route 73)	Mar 31	Youth Group Catechesis: Children at Play (Easter)	Mandatory Parent Workshop Oct 26 <sup>th</sup> or Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>
Oct 21	Youth Group Catechesis: Prayer (Unleashed)			Mandatory Retreat Saturday, January 10 <sup>th</sup>
Oct 28	<i>No Youth Group due to Super Sunday</i>			<b>Super Sunday #2</b> Jan 18 <sup>th</sup> or Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>
Nov 4	Youth Group Catechesis: Saints (Follow in My Footsteps)			Confirmation Rehearsal TBD
Nov 11	<i>No Youth Group – Veterans Day</i>			Confirmation TBD
Nov 18	<i>No Youth Group due to Super Sunday</i>	<b>Other Youth Group Events</b>		
Nov 25	<i>No Youth Group - Thanksgiving</i>	Saturday, Oct 11	Catholic Fest in Richmond, VA all day	
Dec 2	Youth Group Catechesis: Holy Spirit (Life in the Vine)	Sunday, Oct 19	Youth Group Fall Regional Event 6 to 8 PM at St. Nicholas	
Dec 9	Youth Group Catechesis: Advent (Hopeful Anticipation)	Sunday, Nov 16	<i>Service Opportunity: Blessing Bags Food Pantry @ St Gregs</i>	
Dec 16	Youth Group Catechesis: Christmas Social (Las Posadas)	<b>Nov 21-23</b>	<b>Rez Retreat</b>	
Jan 6	Core Team Meeting	Sunday, Dec 14	<i>Service Opportunity: Blessing Bags Food Pantry @ St Gregs</i>	
Jan 13	Youth Group Catechesis: Mary (Mother Knows Best)	<b>Feb 20-22</b>	<b>Diocesan Youth Conference (DYC)</b>	
Jan 20	<i>No Youth Group due to Super Sunday</i>	Sunday, March 29	<i>Service Opportunity: Easter Blessing Bags Food Pantry @ St Gregs</i>	
Jan 27	Youth Group Catechesis: Respect Life (No Matter How Small)	TDB	Youth Group Spring Regional Event 6 to 8 PM at TBD	
Feb 3	Youth Group Catechesis: Prayer (Unleashed)			
Feb 10	Youth Group Catechesis: Eucharist (You are What You Eat)			
Feb 17	<i>No Youth Group due to Super Sunday</i>			
Feb 24	<i>No Youth Group due to DYC</i>			
Mar 3	Youth Group Catechesis: XLT Night (Adoration & Reconciliation)			
Mar 10	Youth Group Catechesis: Christian Friendships			

**\* Please Note:** This calendar is subject to change due to weather. If there is a change, you will be notified via email.

[StGregTheGreatYouthGroup@gmail.com](mailto:StGregTheGreatYouthGroup@gmail.com)

## **CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH GROUP CLASS**

- Classes are held each Tuesday from 6:00pm until 8:00pm beginning on September 30th
- All paperwork and money arrangements are due October 14, 2025.
  - The fee is \$50.00 per student for Youth Group only, with a maximum of \$100 per family. The fee is non-refundable.
  - The fee is \$150.00 per student for Confirmation only.
- If the cost of the Youth Ministry program is a problem for any family, please call Sister Emily, Director of Religious Education, and payment arrangements can be made. What is most important is the student being able to grow in their faith and we are happy to work with families to make that possible.
- The fee must be paid (or arrangements made with Sister Emily) before your student starts classes.
- Payment may be made by cash, check or credit card. To pay using a credit card, go to the church website at: [www.stgregoryvabeach.org](http://www.stgregoryvabeach.org) Click on the DONATE tab. Choose "Youth Ministry" to add your payment and the date to be paid. If you have a student in either Youth Group and/or Confirmation class, you must also add the student name for the donation. If you need further assistance, please call the church office at 757-497-8330. Checks should be made out to St. Gregory the Great Church.
- Each Tuesday evening, Deacon Darrell invites parents to join him in the Chapel for adult faith formation in English while the students are in class. There will be talks in Spanish in the Martin Robert Room. This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith as a family!
- The curriculum for Youth Group and Confirmation is designed to help support parents in handing on the faith to their children. The Diocesan curriculum plan is based on scripture and the teaching of the church and seeks to support families in their mission as “primary educators in the faith” (GDC 255) In supporting the Diocesan curriculum for religious education we will be using the Lifeteen curriculum for Youth Group and Purpose curriculum, through Lifeteen, for Confirmation.

## **EMERGENCY AND SAFETY PROCEDURES**

The purpose of the safety and emergency plan is to ensure the well-being and safety of all the students, catechists and staff. All parents are asked to complete and keep up-dated the **EMERGENCY FORM** for each of their students.

### **Arrival Procedure for Children Attending Classes**

Students may enter the Youth House for class starting at 5:30pm. Parents are asked to have their students here on time for the 6pm start of formation. Students must be dropped off between Vianney Hall and the elementary school, at the far white fence to use the sidewalk between Vianney Hall and the fence. Driving students may park in the spaces on the back side of the Church, directly past the white fence to walk in for the session.

## **Dismissal Procedure After Class**

Class is over at 8p.m. Parents must drive and wait in pick up line by the white fence/far sidewalk to pick up their student. Any student who has not been picked up by 8:30pm will be brought back to the youth house. No student will be allowed to wait outside for a parent. If a student is not picked up by 8:30pm and parents have not notified us about an emergency, Child Protective Services may be called.

## **Communication**

Parents may contact the staff on the Youth Group cell phone. The number will be published when classes begin. Email and flocknote will be an important means of communication. Newsletters and other information will be sent regularly to all families by email and flocknote. Please make sure we have your most recent email address, youth cell phone, and parent cell phone on file.

## **Inclement Weather**

Should normal Confirmation Sundays or Youth Group Tuesdays be affected because of weather or other emergency issues, the staff will make every effort to notify Catechists and parents about any cancellation. An email will be sent via Flocknote to notify Catechists and parents about any cancellation of classes. Please make sure your current email address is provided. If a parent does not have email access, please notify the staff so we can make other notification arrangements.

## **Building Safety**

In the event there is a situation where the buildings need to be secured from an external or internal threat an announcement over the loudspeaker will be made. In the event of a building security issue, all exit doors will remain closed and locked. **NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE BUILDINGS UNTIL THE SITUATION IS RESOLVED – THIS INCLUDES PARENTS.** When the situation is resolved an announcement will be made. If time allows we will send email or text alerts to the parents. Parents should not be in the hallways during class time.

Please notify the office if you notice anyone that should not be present in the building.

**NO FOOD OR DRINK ITEMS** are allowed in the Church.

## **Student's Health and Behavior Issues**

Parents are required to fill out the medical information form for their children when going on retreats. If anything changes for your student during the year, please notify the Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry immediately. If your student is sick and misses the day of school then assume they are also not well enough to attend Youth Group. Children should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school and this would apply for our classes.

The Youth Program is a partnership between the Church and the family. Please work with your student on the importance of their faith formation and the reasons they are attending these special classes. Parents will be notified if a student's behavior is disruptive. If a student is repeatedly disrupting a class they will meet with the Coordinator. A meeting will be held with parents to

discuss disruptive behaviors or disrespect to make sure that students are benefiting from this faith formation opportunity.

The following are not allowed on premises and could result in immediate dismissal from the program: Any form of weapons, real or play; any illegal substance, drugs, or tobacco, any language or behavior not representative of our Catholic faith.

Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class time. If a student is using a phone during class without permission, it will be taken and given to the Coordinator and only returned to a parent.

## **ATTENDANCE**

The schedule for Youth Group and Confirmation along with other youth events is on page 2. If students are absent twice from Youth Group, parents will be contacted. Missing more than 3 nights will cause a delay in being able to receive the Sacraments. Please notify Sr. Emily or Janet Ficca if there is a reason for absence.

For students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is especially important that they attend Youth Group consistently. While Youth Group is required for ongoing formation for our public school students in the Confirmation year, Catholic High students are highly encouraged, but not required, to attend. Students that are preparing for Confirmation may only miss 3 Youth Group nights for the year. **NO ONE CAN MISS THE SUPER SUNDAYS.**

## **PARISH REGISTRATION**

Families must be registered members of St. Gregory the Great Church in order to prepare for and receive the Sacraments with us. If the family is registered at another Catholic Church, a letter of permission is needed from the pastor granting permission for your student to prepare for the Sacraments at St. Gregory instead of your home parish.

## **OCIA (Adapted for teens)**

OCIA is the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Any youth in need of the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and/or First Communion will need to go through OCIA 4 Kids. Please contact Janet Ficca, Coordinator of OCIA for Youth for an interview.

## CONFIRMATION (CCC 1303):

Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
  - it unites us more firmly to Christ;
  - it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
  - it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:

“Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.”

- Two Super Sundays, 1-6pm, Dinner provided (either Oct 26th or Nov 16th AND Jan 18th or Feb 15th)
- **One parent is required to attend their teen's first Super Sunday for a Parent workshop.** They will join their teen for dinner.
- There will be a mandatory Confirmation retreat. Date and time TBD.
- Rehearsal will be the Tuesday immediately preceding the Confirmation Mass, this will take the place of Youth Group that evening
- Youth Group is required as ongoing formation for public school students in the Confirmation year, (**No More Than 3 Nights Can Be Missed**). Catholic High students are invited to attend Youth Group as well.
- *If you plan on taking a Saint Name, the form must be turned in by Nov. 16.*

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is TBD. Each parish is assigned a date by the end of November. We are usually within the last two weeks of Lent before Holy Week on a weeknight. We will let you know our date as soon as we know.**

**CCC 2223:** Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues.

This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the "material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones." Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them: He who loves his son will not spare the rod. . . . He who disciplines his son will profit by him. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

**Morning Offering**

O Jesus, I offer You all my thoughts, words and acts today.  
Please bless me, Jesus and help me to be good today. Amen

**The Memorare prayer**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

**Grace Before Meals**

Bless us, O Lord and these Thy gifts  
Which we are about to receive  
Through Thy bounty  
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

**The Examen**

The Examen is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It’s actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day.

*Here it is in a nutshell:*

**Ask God for light.** I want to look at my day with God’s eyes, not merely my own.

**Give thanks.** The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.

**Review the day.** I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.

**Face your shortcomings.** I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.

**Look toward the day to come.** I ask where I need God in the day to come

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***ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT***

I have read and understood the contents of the Parent Handbook and will act in accordance with the policies and procedures of Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church.

Name & Date

