

St. John, Valmy
Catechism Class Handbook
2019–2020



Why have Confirmation Class?

To “confirm” is to make sure. Confirmation isn’t just a period of 3 years of instruction during the junior-high years of a person’s life. Confirmation is the life-long process of growing in God’s Word and love for God through regular worship, reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and the study of God’s Word. All these things equip us and encourage us to live a life of thanksgiving and praise to our gracious God. This is the main goal of Confirmation Class.

Additional Goals

- Learn the main events/accounts of the Bible and how they fit with God’s plan of salvation.
- Learn to distinguish between Law and Gospel and apply both to his/her life.
- Learn the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism and apply to life.
- Memorization of key Bible passages and key truths so that he/she may apply them in their life.
- Develop and demonstrate good Bible study habits, so the student may be equipped to study God’s Word on his/her own.
- Learn to understand worship and responding to God’s love in Jesus.
- Prepare for the Lord’s Supper by study and personal examination.
- Develop and strengthen relationships with fellow Christians.

Schedule

Lord willing, we will begin another year of Catechism instruction on **Wednesday, September 11th**. We will end our year with our last class on **May 6th**. The last day of class will be followed by **Confirmation Examination** on **Saturday, May 9th at 6:30pm** and **Confirmation Sunday** on **May 10th**.

Our schedule will be the same as in years past. Our regular schedule will run from 3:30-5:30 pm. During Lent we will end at 5:00 pm.

Thankfully, there are no half-days on Wednesdays when we have Catechism Class! I do have two off days scheduled in the second half the year during which we could make up snow days if needed. I’m hoping and praying something like that will not be needed this year!

Curriculum

Our curriculum this year is an updated version of the curriculum we used in the 2017-2018 school year. This year will cover an in-depth study of the 10 Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. If you want to see what the student's workbook will look like, check out this link [Catechism Study](#).

Assignments

Assignments for the entire year are found on the Catechism Class Schedule which was handed out on the first day of class and can be found on the Catechism page on our website (stjohnvalmy.com).

Sermon Notes— A template, both online and printed, will be provided for the students. The printed version will be available at church on the small table just to the right in the church library on a clipboard. The student may put their completed Sermon Notes in my church mailbox after the service. If you cannot attend our church that Sunday, the student will fill out a Sermon Note Sheet on the church you attended, or read my sermon from that Sunday which will be posted on our church website on Monday afternoon every week and then fill out an online Google Classroom Sermon Notes Sheet **no later than 11:59pm on Tuesday night the day before class.**

Memory Work— Each year the students will build on what they learned the year before. Instructions about the assignments can be found on the top of each page of the Memory Work Schedule. The weekly assignment can be found on the Catechism Class Schedule.

Parents are expected to work with their children on their memory work during the week so that they are prepared when they come to class. Should your child fail *a portion or all* of their memory work for a given week, they will need to redo what they failed. They will have the option of redoing it either before Sunday School, or at the beginning of the next class. Their grade will be averaged between the two. Should your child fail again, their grade will be recorded as such and they will need to write out that portion of their memory work 5 times and hand it in the next class period. I will do my best to inform you if your child needs to redo their memory work before Thursday evening of every week.

Google Homework— These assignments are meant as a review of the lesson we just covered. You will notice that each Google Homework number is listed in the schedule for each week. This homework will

lead students to review the portion of the Catechism we studied in class that week. The student will need to use their blue Catechism. We will set up the connection with my Google Classroom and your students school Google account during our visit before classes begin.

This part of the assignment must be done no later than Tuesday night at 11:59pm the day before class. The earlier the better so that I can correct the assignment before class and prepare our in-class review.

Google Reading— The purpose of the reading and review of Scripture is to help the students summarize what they read and what they learned and what they found interesting in the reading. The layout is very similar to the Sermon Notes.

This part of the assignment must be done no later than Tuesday night at 11:59pm the day before class. The earlier the better so that I can correct the assignment before class and prepare our in-class review.

Late Homework— Each student will receive one “pass” for a late assignment. After that, every late assignment will result in a 5% reduction in the total semester grade. If a student accumulates 3 late assignments, a meeting will be held between parents, student and pastor to discuss the situation. There will also be an extra assignment the student will complete according to the pastor’s discretion.

Please make sure your student gets their work done on time, even ahead of time. Late work only takes more time and work for you, your student, the other students and me since it eats up precious classroom time and time out of the classroom.

Tests / Quizzes— Tests and quizzes will be a straight forward matter. For each test, a study guide will be distributed to the students the week before the test. Tests will consist of being prepared for all their memory work from that section, as well as the lessons covered. All this is also noted on the schedule.

Class Attendance

Attendance in Catechism Class is mandatory if confirmation is something you and your child desire. We only have a short time to get our work done in a very tight schedule. Should your child be sick and miss class, or should there be a family emergency or funeral, this class will be made up, one on one if necessary. Should your child miss class for any other reason, it will be dealt with on a case by case basis and will call into question the commitment to class and jeopardize the requirements for the year. If need be, summer classes will be required to consider the year complete. The number of classes will be addressed on a case by case basis.

A snow day in the public school system does not necessarily mean that Catechism Class will be canceled. If the weather continues to make travel conditions dangerous, there will be no class. But as sometimes happens, the expected weather never materializes or clears up long before our scheduled class time. Email, text and phone calls will be the method of contact in these situations. In the event that class is canceled because of snow, we will make up that class either during that week, or during one of our few "off" weeks.

Worship & Sunday School Attendance

Worship attendance and Sunday School attendance are expected every week. First and foremost because of the great importance for us to constantly be in the Word of God and joining together with fellow believers to be built up in faith and encouraged in faithful living. The failure to regularly attend Worship and Sunday School will call into question the commitment to class and God's Word. Such behavior will jeopardize the Catechism school year. The goal of this requirement is to reinforce the importance of regular Bible study and worship in our children's lives now and for their future.

Grades

Grades cumulate throughout the semester and the year as a whole. In order for a student to pass into the next "grade" and/or be considered to be prepared for confirmation, the student must have a passing grade in every aspect of their work. A report card will be sent home after each semester. If concerns arise, they will be communicated with you, the parents. If ever you want information about the grades of your child, please contact me. Should a student finish a year of instruction with a failing grade in any part of their work, summer classes will be required to consider the year complete. The number of classes will be addressed on a case by case basis.

How can you as parents help?

- God wants parents to nurture the children he entrusted to them.
 - “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)
 - Impress [God’s Word] on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (Deut. 6:7)
- God wants His Church to assist in the nurture of children.
 - Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” (Jn. 21:15)
 - It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-13)
- God wants to Strengthen Parents’/Students’ bond through His Word.
 - Parents / Students grow in their faith as the Holy Spirit works through the Word.
 - The example given by parents for their children in studying God’s Word, attending Worship and the Sacrament is noticed by their children.
 - When Children see how important God’s Word and Worship is to parents, they also will see how important it is to them.

Supplies

The supplies your child will need to bring to class are: 1) their own NIV or ESV bible; 2) their Catechism from last year (if a returning student); 3) a writing utensil. Everything else will be provided on the first day of class. May the Lord richly bless us this year as students, parents and pastor dive into God’s Word!

Communication

The primary method of communication between myself and you, the parents, will be via email. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me right away. If it is a serious concern, please ask to see me in person, as I will do the same should I feel something of great importance needs to be discussed.

Contact Information

PHONE

920-743-5343

EMAIL

pastor@stjohnvalmy.com

WEB

www.stjohnvalmy.com

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