FAITH FORMATION

GUARDIAN ANGELS
GIFT Growing In Faith Together

Program Mission: Engaging children, teens, and families in following Jesus and his Church through faith development, family, worship, community, and service.

What are the GIFT Programs?

Family Faith Formation: Age 3 - Grade 5
Sundays twice a month, 9:35-10:45 a.m.
The family is where each of us first encounters love. Children first encounter God's unconditional love through their parents while parents become more united to Jesus through their self-sacrificial love for their children and spouse. We provide formation for all members of the family because Jesus desires to encounter both parents and children.

During sessions, children gather with catechists while parents receive catechesis based on the monthly theme, guidance for at-home lessons, and time to develop relationship with other parents. Some sessions will involve the whole family learning together. We use the Family Formation program, developed in the Twin Cities. This program is centered on empowering parents to be the primary educators of the faith to their children.

NEW this year: Early Childhood faith formation will become a part of our Family Faith Formation program to enable parents with Pre-K children to participate more fully in the program!

First Reconciliation & First Communion
Grades 2 and older
Children experience sacramental preparation with prayer, discussion, activities and full participation in the reception of the sacraments guided by parents. Preparation will be incorporated in the Sunday Family Faith Formation schedule. Parents are the primary formers of the faith and the large group sessions support the take-home materials taught by parents.

JOLT: Grades 6-8
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:45 p.m.
Middle school is a time of transition for everyone. Middle school students are searching for answers to the big questions of life. Who am I? What is my purpose? Where can I find life and life to the fullest? In short, they are looking for Truth. Our middle school program seeks to assist youth in their search. The reality is Truth has a name: Jesus Christ. JOLT stands for "Jesus Our Life & Truth." Our goal is to help introduce them to Jesus. Junior high nights include games, small groups, engaging presentations, discussion, and time for prayer. We use Life Teen material as our base and tailor to the needs and interests of our youth.

RISE: Grades 6-12
One Wednesday per month, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
RISE is a monthly event at Guardian Angels Catholic Church for middle and high school youth. These nights of encounter will be packed with games, fellowship, talks, live music, eucharistic adoration, and confession.

Why RISE? We want our teens to have a strong foundation, Christ-centered friendships, and their Catholic faith to guide them through life. RISE offers a space where they can connect with peers and unpack the beauty of our Catholic faith. Best of all, RISE is completely free.

When will GIFT programs begin?

Programs start beginning of October 2026 and run through early May 2027. Registration opens in August 1 at **www.guardian-angels.org/formation/faith-formation**

How can I volunteer in GIFT?

We need a variety of adult and high school youth to help with our Faith Formation Programs. You do not need to be an expert in the Catholic Faith to help. We will support you, resource you, and help you grow in faith while serving our community!

Interested in being a catechist for Grades 1-5 or JOLT? Please contact Lukas Steffensmeier at **lsteffensmeier@guardian-angels.org** or **651-789-3162**.
Interested in helping Early Childhood? Please contact Deb McMahon at **dmcmahon@guardian-angels.org** or **651-789-3174**.

Interested in supporting RISE through volunteering or providing food? Please contact Andy Watts at **awatts@guardian-angels.org** or **651-789-3173**.

Questions?

If you have questions or would like to help us please contact Lukas Steffensmeier at **lsteffensmeier@guardian-angels.org** or **651-789-3162** or Deb McMahon for Early Childhood at **dmcmahon@guardian-angels.org** or **651-789-3174**.

PROGRAM COST

- Guardian Angels Parishioners: $100 for 1st child, $50 per additional. Family maximum of $200.
- Non-Parishioners: $125 for 1st child, $75per additional. Family maximum of $275
- There is a late fee of $50 per family after September 11.
- A 75% discount is offered to parents who volunteer in the programs.
- Scholarships are available for families with limited means.

Guardian Angels
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Share the Good News of Jesus