

Second Hour FAQ’s

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14. What is Second Hour?
    1. Second Hour is an intergenerational faith formation program providing all from the very young child to the mature adult with the opportunity to grow in faith and their relationship with God
    2. The title comes from our “First Hour” is our weekend Mass, where we gather together in the most powerful prayer of the Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist. Our “Second Hour” is our Wednesday night faith formation, where we gather to continue our prayer and fellowship while strengthening our faith and relationship with our God.
15. Why Wednesday nights?
    1. Wednesday evening has traditionally been respected in the greater Defiance area as “church night,” with the school systems and sporting events avoiding scheduling during this time to allow for faith formation.
16. Who should attend?
    1. Simply put – EVERYONE! All are welcome! Second Hour is more that catechesis for school age youth. It is an opportunity for all area Catholics from all ages to grow in faith. Second Hour strives to offer faith formation for everyone, regardless of age
       1. Adult session – for all adults of all ages and faith levels, from the high school graduate to the very mature adult
       2. Nursery, Preschool, & Kindergarten
       3. Grades 1 – 6 students with a Parent or Mentor
       4. Jr High & High School Youth
    2. **Holy Cross Students and families are also encouraged and welcome to attend as their Second Hour fee for the students is covered under their HCCS tuition.** Second Hour utilizes different lessons and books then the school and provides the unique opportunity for parents and children to learn and grow together.
17. Why should parents attend with their children?
    1. We know that faith formation is passed from parent to child through lived example and experience. Therefore, we know that we cannot succeed in faith formation with our children without the engagement of parents. Parents know the heart and learning style of their children best.
    2. Jr. High and High School students will gather with other students, the Second Hour staff member, and adult coaches to learn and grow in their faith. We encourage parents of these students to attend the Adult session of Second Hour to continue to grow in faith and community with other Adult parishioners.
18. What if I am unable to attend with my child?
    1. We strongly encourage a parent to attend with each child to learn and grow together. If a parent is unavailable, we encourage parents to utilize family members and friends for additional support and mentoring.
    2. If a parent is unable to attend, we recommend that mentors be Catholic so that they will be able to mentor with confidence and good knowledge of the Catholic faith. We also encourage non-Catholic parents to attend with the child to learn about the Catholic faith.
    3. Finally, if you have other family members or friends attending, please see if you can partner with them in mentoring your children.
19. How long is the program?
    1. The Adults & Nursery – Grade 6 sessions will meet September through April. The Junior High and High School will continue to gather for the first 2 weeks in May.
    2. The Adults & Nursery – Grade 4 will gather from 7:00 – 8:00PM. Grades 5 – 6 will gather from 7:00 – 8:15PM. The Junior High and High School will gather from 7:00 – 8:30PM.
    3. All locations will be open at 6:30 to allow time for any participants who need to drop children off at more than one location.
20. Who goes where?
    1. Adults & Nursery – Grade 4 will gather out at Holy Cross Catholic School.
    2. Grades 5 & 6 will meet downstairs at the St. Mary’s Ministry Center.
    3. Junior High students will meet at the St. John’s Parish Life Center
    4. High school students will meet at the St. John’s Youth Building.
    5. Any changes in class location are noted on the calendar.
21. How do I register?
    1. You can find the registration form in the Second Hour mailing, at each of the church offices, or on the parish websites.
    2. Please remember that we will need a new registration form for each family every year. We greatly appreciate any efforts to have your form and fee turned in by the end of August.
    3. We will still accept registration after this date if you are, for any reason, unable to return the form early or should decide to attend later in the year.
22. How much does it cost?
    1. The registration fee is $30.00 per person; not to exceed a total cost of $180.00 per family. The cost per person equals $1.25 per person for each of the 24 classes offered.
    2. No one is denied participation due to an inability to pay – please contact Jessica West if a payment plan option or other arrangements for financial assistance are needed.
    3. **Please remember that if your child (ren) attend Holy Cross Catholic School, their fee Second Hour is included in the tuition.**
    4. Any donations toward the program are welcome as the full cost of running the program is not offset by the registration fee and necessary to the running of the program, such as staff, books, and other materials.
23. Who’s in charge?
    1. Our two pastors, Fr. Randy Giesige and Fr. Eric Mueller, are the leaders of the Second Hour program, as they are our parishes’ spiritual directors.
    2. Jessica West is the Director of Religious Education (Second Hour).
    3. Emily Willitzer is the coordinator for the Nursery through Grade 4, including First Communion preparation.
    4. Pam Lightle is the coordinator for Grades 5 – 8, including Confirmation preparation.
    5. Holly Hesselschwardt is the coordinator for the High School Youth and Young Adult programs.
    6. Allison Willitzer is the Second Hour Aide.
24. What are the changes in the sacramental years?
    1. First Communion
       1. For public school students, preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion will be a two year program throughout their 1st and 2nd grade years of attendance at Second Hour. Holy Cross students will also engage in learning at school throughout their first and second grade classes. For all students & their parents, there will be mandatory meetings in the year leading up to these sacraments (which occur during the 2nd grade school year)
       2. We will celebrate First Reconciliation jointly at whichever church is designated to host that year. Each parish will have their own celebration of First Communion at their respective parishes at the end of April or beginning of May.
    2. Confirmation
       1. Immediate preparation classes for Confirmation will begin during their freshman school year and will continue through their sophomore year, up to their date of confirmation
       2. However, as with school, information learned throughout the elementary and junior high years help to shape and build on the faith foundation needed to defend and grow in the faith.
       3. All students will be confirmed at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo on the date determined by the Bishop’s availability.
    3. Attendance in Grades 1 – 12
       1. It is the mission of the church to prepare our youth for the sacraments that they will be receiving and strengthen them to carry forward in the faith beyond the sacramental years. In order to provide them with this knowledge and strength, a solid foundation provided by regular attendance at the Second Hour program is crucial.
       2. In the same way that you must meet requirements in order to progress to the next grade level in school, we must meet certain faith requirements ordained by the Catholic Church and Diocese of Toledo in order to receive the sacraments.
       3. We do recognize that illnesses and family events occur - Please contact the Second Hour Director to communicate your situation. You will be given any work that can be provided to make- up before the next week. After 3 total absences, additional work may be provided/required before the sacraments can be received by a student.
25. How do I volunteer?
    1. Please call or email the Second Hour staff or parish offices if you are interested in volunteering in any capacity for the Second Hour program.
    2. All volunteers that work with our youth will have to meet the Diocesan guidelines for working with youth, which include:
       1. Compliance with the Diocese of Toledo “Expectations for All those who Minister to Youth” guidelines. You will also need to read and sign the “Expectations for All those who Minister to Youth” form
26. Where can I get more information?
    1. Please call or email to reach the Second Hour staff. Updates and new information will also be posted to the Second Hour Facebook page also.

Second Hour Staff

Mrs. Jessica West – Director of Religious Education

Email: [jessicawest@metalink.net](mailto:jessicawest@metalink.net)

Ms. Emily Willitzer - Coordinator for Nursery - Grade 4; 1st Communion

Email: eswstmary@metalink.net

Mrs. Pam Lightle - Youth Minister for Grade 5-8; Confirmation Preparation Email: pajamas3@hotmail.com

Ms. Holly Hesselschwardt - High School Youth & Young Adult Minister Email: hmhstmary@metalink.net

Ms. Allison Willitzer - Second Hour Aide

Email: [amwstmary@metalink.net](mailto:amwstmary@metalink.net)

The Second Hour Prayer

Dear Lord, we the parishioners of St. John and St. Mary surrender the Second Hour Catholic Education program into your hands. We ask for your blessing, your wisdom, your truth, and your love to guide us as we work to nurture, educate, and inspire. Help us to KNOW our faith, GROW our faith, and GO our faith! In your name, we pray these things with confidence and gratitude that you will hear us and respond. AMEN.