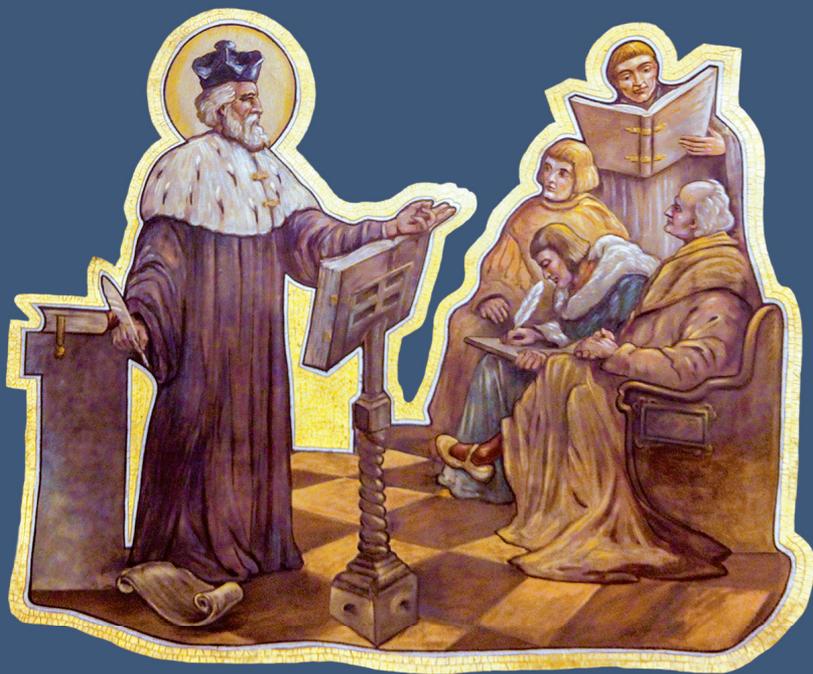


St. John Cantius Parish  
Religious Education Classes

2021-2022



Syllabus of Classes and Information



## Letter from the Pastor:

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome back! After a year and a half of some uncertainties and transitions, we will once again offer in-person classes for all years, as well as in-person language classes.

Despite the many challenges we have undergone throughout this last year, we still had the joy of so many First Communions and so many who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is in a huge part due to the dedication of our parents and volunteers. It is through your example and encouragement that your child has been able to participate in classes and formation over this last year. Your dedication to the Church and her Sacraments, even despite the difficulties, have allowed for your children to see the importance of having our faith at the center of their lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Judith Keefe, who has served as our Director of Religious Education (DRE) for many years. Her dedication to the families and our Religious Education program have enabled us to reach so many. Her support has helped to make the program what it is today.

This year, as our parish family continues to grow and more come to participate in the Sacraments at St. John Cantius, I am proud to welcome the newly ordained Fr. Nathan Ford, SJC to the position of DRE. I know that he has learned much throughout his involvement in the last several years and is excited to become even more involved in the program.

I am grateful for the dedication of your families and our Volunteers. I look forward to seeing the continued growth of our Religious Education Program, and how the lessons in the classrooms overflow into our daily lives.

Sincerely in Christ,

**Very Rev. Joshua S. Caswell, SJC**  
Pastor & Superior

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**“What kind of work can be more noble than to cultivate the minds of young people, so that the knowledge and love of God and His holy precepts go hand-in-hand with learning.”**

**- Saint John Cantius**



## Overview of Structure:

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Intellectual and Spiritual formation for our youth is crucial; especially in today's secular world. It is, therefore, most desirable that the youth at our parish be able to enter into and remain in ongoing religious education and formation. These classes are NOT meant to be thought of as "options" for us to decide which ones our youth will attend. Rather, the entire CCD program is to be thought of as a whole program. It is our desire that once enrolled in our program, each child will progress through the various classes in order to better be formed in the faith and prepared not only for reception of the sacraments, but also to live a fully authentic Catholic life.

### Religious Education Classes Offered for 2021-2022:

- First Communion Class (Ages 7-8)
- Old Testament Class (Ages 8-9)
- New Testament Class (Ages 9-10)
- Confirmation A Class (Ages 10-11)
- Confirmation B Class (Ages 11-12)
- Fundamentals of the Faith (Ages 12-17)

## Syllabus of Classes:

### First Communion Class (Ages 7-8):

This class aims at preparing children for the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Their preparation begins in a year-long class in which the children will receive general instruction in their Catholic faith and a life lived in relationship with Christ. Children will be learning and memorizing their basic prayers, examining the difference between right and wrong, studying the Ten Commandments, and developing a love and knowledge of Our Lord in the Eucharist.

#### Requirements:

1. Children must be at least 7 years old.
2. A copy of the child's baptismal certificate must be presented at the time of registration.
3. Text Provided - Ignatius Press Faith and Life series, grade 2, and selected materials.

#### Instructor:

**Mrs. Lisa Kowalik** earned her B.A. in English from DePaul University. She is the First Communion teacher at St. John Cantius and has taught at the parish for many years. Mrs. Kowalik is a long time parishioner who was married at St. John Cantius and has 8 children.



**Email:** kowalikfamily@comcast.net

**Assistant:** Mrs. Jamie Baugh

**Class Location:** Church Library

## Old Testament Class (Ages 8-9):

One of the foundational areas of focus for an authentically lived Catholic life is knowledge of our own tradition and heritage. Spending a year studying, reading, and praying with the books and stories of the Old Testament afford each child time to become personally familiar with these important lessons and histories of our faith. Familiarity with the Old Testament naturally leads one to have a deeper understanding and appreciation for the New Testament.

### Requirements:

1. Children must have made their First Communion.
2. Text - Holy Bible and assorted materials.

### Instructor:

**Ms. Christina Pasquali** is a graduate of Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, FL and specializes in Veterans Benefits and Military Law. She has been a parishioner of St. John Cantius since October 2020, and is engaged to be married there in September 2021. Christina taught Religious Education at her previous parish, and is super excited to continue this role at St. John Cantius with the Old Testament class.



**Email:** cpasquali.valaw@gmail.com

**Assistant:** TBD

**Class Location:** St. Augustine Room

## New Testament Class (Ages 9-10):

Transitioning from a deeper familiarity of the Old Testament previously, children now begin to pore over the important passages of the New Testament. The four Gospel accounts should be texts that each student has a basic knowledge of and personal relationship with. Beyond just a general knowledge of these writings, the hope of this class is that children will see and understand the Good News of Christ's coming among men.

### Requirements:

1. Children must have made their First Communion.
2. Text - Holy Bible and assorted materials.

### Instructor:

**Ms. Sharon Grossklas** received her bachelor's degree in Special Education from Northern Illinois University, and her master's degree in Reading Education (with certification as a Reading Specialist) from Dominican University. For the past 14 years she has been teaching as a special education teacher in the southwest suburbs. Sharon has been a parishioner of St. John Cantius since 1993, and has volunteered at the parish in a variety of capacities over the years. She is looking forward to diving into the New Testament with her students this year.



**Email:** sgrossklas@gmail.com

**Assistant:** Mr. John-Paul Pizzica

**Class Location:** Elijah Room

## Confirmation A (Ages 10-11):

This first year of Confirmation preparation will begin the children's first steps towards an individual ownership of their faith. Building upon their knowledge of the Old and New Testaments, children in this class will start to examine the broader tradition of the Church as well as how to live a life of Catholic discipleship. Full participation in the life of the Church is the goal of this class; participation in which students are able to articulate their faith both corporately and personally.

### Requirements:

1. Children must have made their First Communion.
2. Text Provided - Ignatius Press Faith and Life series, grade 6.

### Instructor:

**Mrs. Karolina Kierlanczyk** received her M.A. and Ph.D. in history of literature from University of Gdansk in Poland, and M.A. in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Chicago. In addition, she published scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals in the United States and in Poland and taught at such institutions as Loyola University Chicago and Northwestern University. Karolina and her husband have been parishioners of St. John Cantius parish since December, 2019.



**Email:** [kkierlan@gmail.com](mailto:kkierlan@gmail.com)  
**Assistant:** Ms. Eileen Rowan

**Class Location:**  
St. Paul Room

## Confirmation B (Ages 11-12):

The program is structured as a pilgrimage towards the great day of Confirmation. It will contain three inseparable elements: Prayer, study and witness. These will be expressed through class prayer, a retreat and discussion about friendship with Christ, a comprehensive review of the Catechism, supernatural destiny and the purpose of life, and service to the poor, the elderly and the Gospel of Life.

### Requirements:

1. Children must have made their First Communion.
2. A copy of the child's baptismal certificate must be presented at the time of registration.
3. Text Provided - Ignatius Press Faith and Life series, grade 7.

### Instructor:

**Mr. Bill Melichar** grew up in the Chicago west suburbs and has been a parishioner of St. John Cantius since 1998. A graduate of Loyola University Law School, he volunteers as an attorney representing the best interests of children in guardianship cases. In 2018 he completed a master's degree in dogmatic theology summa cum laude with a published thesis on the Mariology of St. Therese and subsequent concentration on the teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas.



**Email:** [wjgmelichar@gmail.com](mailto:wjgmelichar@gmail.com)  
**Assistant:** Mrs. Beth Lee

**Class Location:**  
St. Peter Room

## Fundamentals “Dying for the Faith” (Ages 12-17):

This course explores martyrdom, and the historical context in which Christian martyrs lived. This is the fourth Fundamentals class. **You need not have participated in the prior classes to join this class.** The first two classes covered our Faith by exploring the Catechism of the Catholic Church in detail. The third class focused on defending our Faith through well-reasoned arguments. This will be a reading-intensive course, and class discussion will be key. The purpose is to engage with the material and come to a better understanding (and love) of our Catholic Faith.

### Requirements:

1. Children must have made their First Communion.
2. Text Provided

### Instructor:

Mr. Rob Pluta and his wife Christine have five children and have been parishioners at St. John Cantius for nearly twenty years. Mr. Pluta is a Partner in the international law firm of Mayer Brown LLP where he practices intellectual property law. He received his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from Marquette University and his law degree from DePaul University College of Law.



**Email:** rgpluta@gmail.com

**Assistant:** Mr. Ed Huelke

**Class Location:**

St. Therese Hall



**BIRETTA BOOKS**  
*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*

EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF  
THE ROMAN RITE OF THE MASS  
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WITH PROPS FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS

New Testament Stories Jesus Saves Us

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL  
FATHER LANSANCE

HOLY WATER

We carry the books used  
in our language classes

Visit our store in the  
lower level of the church

## How to Register:

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**Registration takes place on August 15th and 22nd from 10:00am-12:30pm in the Parish Hall. Orientation takes place on Sunday, August 29th in the Parish Hall and corresponding classrooms.**

**Step 1:** Fill out the appropriate registration form per student and return it to that class's registration table in the Church Hall on the specified Sundays.

**Step 2:** Provide any necessary paperwork (baptismal certificates, etc.).

**Step 3:** Provide the \$45 Registration Fee.

**If you have any further questions, please feel free to email [ccd@cantius.org](mailto:ccd@cantius.org) or call the office at 312-243-7373.**

## 2021-2022 CCD Calendar:

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## Fall Semester 2021:

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**Sunday, August 15th & 22nd – Registration in the Parish Hall**

**Sunday, August 29th – Orientation**

Sunday, September 12th – *First Day of Class!*

**Sunday, September 19th – “Empowering God’s Children” Class**

Sunday, September 26th – Class

Sunday, October 3rd – Class

Sunday, October 10th – Class

**Sunday, October 17th – NO CLASS: Forty Hours**

Sunday, October 24th – Class

Sunday, October 31st – Class

Sunday, November 7th – Class (*Daylight Savings*)

Sunday, November 14th – Class

Sunday, November 21st – Class

**Sunday, November 28th – NO CLASS: Thanksgiving**

Sunday, December 5th – Class

Sunday, December 12th – Class

**CHRISTMAS BREAK**

## Spring Semester 2022:

Sunday, January 9th – Class

Sunday, January 16th – Class

Sunday, January 23rd – Class

Sunday, January 30th – Class

Sunday, February 6th – Class

Sunday, February 13th – Class

Sunday, February 20th – Class

Saturday, February 27th – Class

Sunday, March 6th – Class

Sunday, March 13th – Class (*Daylight Savings*)

Sunday, March 20th – Class

**Saturday, March 26th – First Confessions at 10:00am**

Sunday, March 27th – Class

Sunday, April 3rd – Class

**Sunday, April 10th – NO CLASS: Palm Sunday**

## Spring Semester 2022:

**Sunday, April 17th – NO CLASS: Easter Sunday**

**Sunday, April 24th – First Communions at the**

**12:30pm Mass**

Sunday, May 1st – Class

Sunday, May 8th – Class

Sunday, May 15th – Class

Sunday, May 22nd – Class (*Last Day of Classes*)

**Saturday, May 28th – Confirmation Retreat**

**Thursday, June 2nd – Confirmation Rehearsal 7:00pm**

**Saturday, June 4th – Confirmation at 7:00pm**

**Sunday, June 19th – Corpus Christi Procession for**

**First Communicants**

## Empowering God's Children:

Dear Parents,

On Sunday, September 19th each Religious Education Instructor will be teaching our annual "Teaching Safety – Empowering God's Children" class. We want to help our children navigate safely today's society. This class does fulfill the requirements of the Archdiocese of Chicago for all parishes' Religious Education programs. The lesson this year will focus on "Boundaries and Friendships." The class will be taught at an age-appropriate level. It is important that all students attend this class.

If there is any reason that would prohibit a student from attending, we ask that you complete the "opt-out" form and turn it in by the date of the class.

The date for the "Teaching Safety – Empowering God's Children" class will be on Sunday, September 19, 2021.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely in Christ,  
**Fr. Nathan Ford, SJC**

## Additional Information:

**Orientation - Sunday, August 29th:** Orientation is required of all students AND their parents. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. to go over the year, expectations, and to introduce the instructors to their classes.

**All classes begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.** and finish at 10:50 a.m. Special arrangements can be made for those who may need to leave early (either to sing in a choir or serve for Mass).

- ALL students in the **First Communion Class** will NOT be released from the classroom until a parent or sibling presents themselves to pick up the student. The other classes will be released on their own.

- If anyone other than parent or sibling will pick up your child, please send an email authorizing what day this will occur / or write it on the registration form if someone other than family.

**Class Cancellations:** Classes may be canceled due to inclement weather. You will be notified by e-mail the night before or early morning if classes are canceled.

**Attendance:** Email notification to the class instructor is necessary for an excused absence. Otherwise, more than *three unexcused absences* will result in the student possibly being dismissed from the program. If you have any questions please contact Fr. Joshua at the parish office at 312-243-7373.

- N.B. Programs, sports, recitals, vacations are not acceptable reasons for absence and are considered UNEXCUSED.

**Behavioral Issues:** If behavioral problems occur, the instructor will correct the student as needed. If problems persist the parents will then be notified and if necessary, the student may be dismissed from the program.

**Primary Educators:** St. John Cantius recognizes and respects the primary role of the parents in the education of their own children. The means used for this education fall within the prerogative of the parents. However, the administration of the sacraments is the responsibility of the pastor.

- Archdiocesan policy states: *“The pastor or his designate shall determine the readiness of children in light of their disposition and preparation prior to the first reception of the sacraments.”* (Canons 777 & 914)

- Therefore, it is not permissible to present your child for any of these sacraments unless and until the child has been determined ready by the pastor.

**All children** must be registered in the St. John Cantius CCD program to receive First Communion and Confirmation. All registered students are required to pay the tuition fee unless arrangements are made with the pastor.



*The School Sisters of Notre Dame.  
They were the first order of sisters to begin teaching at St. John Cantius in 1893.  
The first classes were held in the basement of the church.*

## Café San Giovanni:

*Come enjoy the reopening of*



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# CAFÉ SAN GIOVANNI

ST. JOHN CANTIUS PARISH CAFÉ

Our Café San Giovanni, open on most Sundays of the year, is the meeting place for our parishioners and friends before and after Mass. The Café is located in the lower level of the Church, where churchgoers can obtain coffee and other refreshments, including breakfast items, for a modest donation. It is also an excellent place just to relax and visit with family and friends.



## Latin Classes:

## Latin Class Introduction:

Have you always wanted a deeper appreciation of our Church's languages and heritage? St. John Cantius' language classes offer a chance to begin or to continue your study of the language and history of the Church.

We offer a range of Latin classes through which you can develop from complete beginner to fluent reader of original texts. You can progress from the beginner class through to the advanced reading classes, or you can join at any point along the way if you already have some background in the language. Classes are one hour a week, so we move at a pace that allows you to learn whilst not interfering with work and / or other study commitments.

We focus on ecclesiastical Latin – the Latin of the liturgy, Jerome's Bible, scholastic philosophers, papal bulls and canon law – but the course will also set you in good stead if your interest is in classical Latin. Many of the texts we read in the advanced reading classes are from the classical age.

We usually run two semesters a year: A fall class from September through December and a spring class from January through June. Beginner classes start each September. We also offer occasional classes on various topics, including the popular 'Latin of the Mass' class which provides an introduction to the Latin of the Mass for those who may not wish to pursue formal studies in Latin.

## Latin Class Information:

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The 2021 fall semester begins on **September 12, 2021** and ends on **December 19, 2021**.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email [latin@cantius.org](mailto:latin@cantius.org)

All classes will be held in person. Classes meet on Sundays in the Canonry at 1025 W. Fry St., Chicago, IL. Enter the building from the south door between the Canonry and the Church (there is no entry directly from the street).

**Registration for Classes:** You can register by contacting the instructor by email in advance of class or by registering in person at the Canonry on the first day of class on September 12. If you would like to join any class after September 12, please contact the instructor.

**Payment for Classes:** You can pay the registration fee through our **Give Central** page. This is not registration - you still need to contact the instructor or register in person.

**Purchase of Textbooks:** You can purchase all textbooks in advance at Biretta Books, or you can purchase your textbook at the Canonry on the first day of class on September 12.

## Latin Classes Offered at St. John Cantius:

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**Latin I: Beginner**

**Latin II: Intermediate**

**Latin III: Advanced**

**Latin IV: St. Augustine's Confessions**

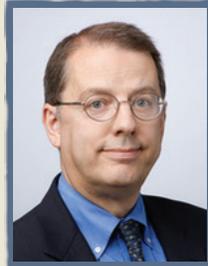
**Latin V: Latin Poetry - Horace**

## Latin Class Instructors:

**Mr. Rupert J. Ward** holds an MA from Merton College, Oxford and works in international corporate tax.

**Email:** rupertward28@gmail.com

**Phone:** (872) 221-2469



**Mr. Anthony Chapello** has been a part of The Latin Program since his Seventh grade where he learned Latin under the tutelage of Joseph Phelps. He studied Greek and Latin at the University of Chicago after graduating from Northridge Preparatory School. He is currently seeking a History degree from Dominican University. Mr. Chapello has also sung in the youth choirs of St. John Cantius and frequently serves the Mass.

**Email:** anchapello@gmail.com

**Phone:** (331) 240-5418



**Mr. Christopher Jones** minored in Latin at Marquette University and has had a lifelong interest in classical texts. He works as a systems engineer, and lives on the NW side of Chicago with his wife and two teenaged children.

**Email:** chris5441@sbcglobal.net

**Phone:** (773) 507-4153

**Mr. Andre Mendoza** graduated from Princeton University, where he majored in Classics and minored in Medieval Studies as well as Math. His Senior Thesis focused on methods for teaching spoken Latin in the classroom. In the summer of 2019 Mr. Mendoza attended the Academia Vivarium Novum, a school situated in the outskirts of Rome, where he learned to speak Latin and Greek.



**Email:** amendoza@northridgeprep.org

**Phone:** (847) 375-0600 x 407

## Latin I: Beginner

*Classes start September 12th and will be held from  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.*

**Instructor: Mr. Rupert J. Ward**

For the beginner with no prior Latin study. Classes will cover conjugation of verbs, declension of nouns/adjectives and an introduction to reading and writing Latin. The textbook is Collins' *A Primer of Ecclesiastical Latin*.

Classes will be held in person on Sundays.

**The cost is \$50.00 for the class and \$35.00 for the textbook. You can buy the textbook at Biretta Books or at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

Please pay for the class through our Give Central page. Note, however, that payment is not registration.

**To register please email Rupert Ward, or register in person at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

## Latin II: Intermediate

*Classes start September 12th and will be held from  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon*

**Instructor: Mr. Anthony Chapello**

This class is for the beginner with some prior Latin study. Classes will cover conjugation of verbs, declension of nouns/adjectives and an introduction to reading and writing Latin. The textbook is Collins' *A Primer of Ecclesiastical Latin*. The class will pick up at Unit 14 after a review of previous units.

Classes will be held in person on Sundays.

**The cost is \$50.00 for the class and \$35.00 for the textbook. You can buy the textbook at Biretta Books or at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

Please pay for the class through our Give Central page. Note, however, that payment is not registration.

**To register please email Anthony Chapello or register in person at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

### Latin III: Advanced

*Classes start September 12th and will be held from  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.*

**Instructor: Mr. Andre Mendoza**

For the more advanced student with some prior Latin study. Classes will review the later chapters of Collins' *A Primer of Ecclesiastical Latin* and introduce readings from *Lingua Latina*.

Classes will be held in person on Sundays.

**The cost is \$50.00 for the class, \$30 for the Collins textbook and \$35 for the Collins textbook. Extracts from Lingua Latina will be provided as necessary. You can buy the Collins textbook at Biretta Books or at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

Please pay through our **Give Central** page. Note, however, that payment is not registration.

**To register please email Andre Mendoza, or register in person at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

### Latin IV: St. Augustine's Confessions

*Classes start September 12th and will be held from  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.*

**Instructor: Mr. Christopher Jones**

St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, is often called the last classical and first Medieval man. This vivid autobiography reveals the inner struggle to leave behind the old world for a new vision of Christianity, a moving testimony from a singular voice of the ancient world. Our seminar will read from the selection edited by Campbell and McGuire (ISBN: 978-0-86516-058-3).

Class will be held in person on Sundays.

**The cost is \$50.00 for the class and \$35 for the textbook. You can buy the textbook at Biretta Books or at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

Please pay for the class through our **Give Central** page. Note, however, that payment is not registration.

**To register please email Christopher Jones, or register in person at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

## Latin V: Latin Poetry - Horace

*Classes start September 12th and will be held from  
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.*

**Instructor: Mr. Christopher Jones**

Tennyson famously calls Horace's polished verse "jewels five-words that on the stretched forefinger of all time, sparkle forever". Tiny but sophisticated, his confessional masterpieces speak to many human concerns and leave readers with the feeling he is confiding in them like a friend. We will translate and discuss some of his best-known Odes, and place them in the Roman poetic tradition. Our seminar will read from the selection 'Horace in his Odes' edited by J.A. Harrison.

Class will be held in person on Sundays.

**The cost is \$50.00 for the class and \$40 for the textbook. You can buy the textbook at Biretta Books or at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**

Please pay for the class through our **Give Central** page. Note, however, that payment is not registration.

**To register please email Christopher Jones, or register in person at the Canonry immediately before the first class.**



“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them;  
for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

- Matthew 19:14