



**SURSUM CORDA (3<sup>RD</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)**  
**RCIA FOR CHILDREN (2<sup>ND</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)**  
**RCIA FOR TEENS (7<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)**

The ***Sursum Corda Program*** is offered to any 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grader from a Catholic family who, in the past, have not regularly attended Mass and/or Religious Education classes. The ***RCIA for children and teens*** is offered to individuals 7 years of age and older who desire to either be baptized or who already validly baptized in a Christian community, desire full communion with the Catholic Church. The goal of the nine (9) month intensive program is to prepare each child, enabling the student to fully embrace the richness of Catholic prayer, liturgy, doctrine and morals. Students, with minds transformed and hearts lifted (*Sursum Corda*), will be well prepared and properly disposed to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Those in RCIA will be well prepared and properly disposed to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).

**“DO NOT BE AFRAID! OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST!”**

This was the message given by Saint Pope John Paul II just after he was elected Pope in 1978. I want to thank your family for taking the step this year to Open wide the doors to Christ. You are not only opening wide the doors for your children, but in fact you are opening wide the doors for your entire family. Think of our homes. We open and close our doors to many things, letting good in and shutting evil out. The *Sursum Corda / RCIA* program helps families who have the desire to a full participation in the liturgy (Mass), Sacramental Life and Catechism (instruction in the faith).

**GOALS:**

**1. Connect or Re-Connect.** Many families have not been attending Mass regularly, and therefore the goal is to introduce or re-introduce families to the Mass which is the “source and summit” of our Faith. Attendance at the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass is the primary component to this program, for it is at Mass that we join our hearts with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and lift them up to the Lord. Catechism (religious instruction) is the secondary component to this program. Many families for whatever reason have not attended catechism classes, so there is much "catching up" to do in the area of prayer, belief and life as a Catholic. This "catching up" rather than being seen as a negative, is actually an amazing opportunity for your family to connect or re-connect with Jesus Christ and His Church and to live life to the full. Our families are vulnerable. Jesus tells us, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10).” We must protect our families from Satan the thief who would like to steal, kill and destroy. We must run to Jesus our Good Shepherd and His Church who protects our families and gives us the grace and truth necessary to live life to the full.

**2. The importance of Parents.** - Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC 2223). One parent (an adult responsible for the child’s faith) must be present at all classes taught on **Wednesday**. Parent’s First class is offered from 5:15-6:15PM in English (Rm.102) and Spanish (Rm.101).

**Format for the Parent’s First Class:** A third of the time is spent using the "Quick Connect" or "Conexion Directa" *Lectio Divina* guide from [linktoliturgy.com](http://linktoliturgy.com). This is a four step guide of reading, meditating, praying, and contemplating scripture. A third of the time is spent sharing the fruits of your *Lectio Divina* with others. A third of the time is spent with catechetical instruction on the Sunday Gospel or a Feast Day.

## WEEKLY COMMITMENT

### Sursum Corda

**Sunday Class** – 9:00-10:30AM Pius XII Center  
**Sunday Mass** – 11:00AM Mass  
**Wednesday Class** – 5:00-6:30PM Pius XII Center

### RCIA children / teens

**Sunday Mass** – 9:00AM (dismiss from Mass)  
**Sunday Class** – 9:30AM-10:30AM Pius XII Center  
**Wednesday Class** – 5:00-6:30PM Pius XII Center

## IMPORTANT DATES

**First Class** – Sunday, September 11, 2016                      **Last Class** – Wednesday, June 7, 2017  
**Rite of Election (RCIA students)** – March 3, 2017 at 7:00PM at Immaculate Conception in Denton  
**Retreat (3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)** – March 19, 2017 (9am-4pm) – held at SEAS  
**Easter Vigil (RCIA students)** – April 15, 2017 at 8:30PM [Rehearsal at 10AM]  
**First Confessions** – Family will choose the date. (Please wait until after 5/10)  
**Scapular Investiture** – June 7, 2017 at the 6:30PM Mass  
**First Communion** – Family will choose the date. (Please wait until after 5/27)

## OTHER DETAILS / COST

**SALVATION** - The ultimate goal of *Sursum Corda* is the salvation of our soul and the souls of those that have been entrusted to us. Jesus Christ and His Church have given our families every tool necessary, and with our yes and God's grace, we can faithfully walk the path of perfection.

**ATTENDANCE** – Sursum Corda / RCIA is a 4 hour a week commitment. Children and teens must have satisfactory attendance. Students are limited to three absences from class and or Mass in the Fall Semester and three absences from class and or Mass in the Spring Semester. Three tardies constitutes one absence. Failure to attend class may delay the child's reception of the Sacraments. To find out your child's attendance record or to excuse an absence contact Wendy Collins. Families are to attend the 11AM Mass together. Please meet your child in the Church promptly at 10:45AM.

**Please note:** If you arrive after Mass has begun it will be considered an absence.

**Please note:** If the catechists attend Mass with your child(ren) in your absence it will be considered an absence.

**ASSESSMENTS** - Children will be assessed throughout the year based on attendance, knowledge of class material and ability to recite their prayers. If necessary, parents will meet with the Director of Religious Education so that key areas of prayer, belief and life as a Catholic can be explained, discussed and effectively handed on to the children.

**SPIRITUAL ADOPTION / CALLED TO PROTECT** – The Catholic Church teaches the dignity of life from the moment of conception to natural death. As a part of Sursum Corda /RCIA child-teen we take part in a spiritual adoption program in which the students spiritually adopt a baby in danger of abortion. Students pray for the baby and mother as well as learn the development of the baby in the womb. We also have a Called to Protect class offered on 10/12/16 to teach children respect of the body (theirs and others). This program not only teaches them how to be respectful of their body but to be aware of when others (adults, children and teens) are not respecting their bodies.

**Sursum Corda (Grades 3-6<sup>th</sup>) RCIA (Grades 2-12<sup>th</sup>)                      \$100.00**

## REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE – SEASCC.ORG

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