But you, remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,
because you know from whom you learned it, and that from
infancy you have known the sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving
you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for
refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one
who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:14-17
If you were to ask around, I'm sure you would find that there are a lot of people who know a lot ABOUT Jesus, which is great. For us as Catholics though, it is even more important that we actually get to KNOW Jesus, which requires our spending time with Him and asking our questions and being patient and quiet enough to hear the answers.

The Committed to Christ trait of Formation means that we are maturing in our faith; that our understanding of Jesus and His Church continues to grow as we undergo new life experiences. Our faith should shed light on those experiences and help us understand them in the context of God’s greater plan. It is through formation and prayer that we can come to understand the hard teachings regarding how we are called to live as Christians. Being properly formed can give us the strength to live out those beliefs even amidst the trials and challenges that we face in this world, so that we can enjoy the eternal happiness of heaven in the next. **Formation doesn’t just happen— we need to actively seek out opportunities for growth, whatever they might be for us. The possibilities are truly infinite, just like our God!**

**Some starter ideas:**
Read a book written by or about a saint

Attend a parish ministry or event that you have never been to before

Join a Bible Study Group or participate in one on your own from Formed.org

Make a list of questions you have about what the Church teaches and why— then start reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church to find answers to your questions

Attend an Arise Saturday Night (www.arisemke.org) or a Conference (Women of Christ, Men of Christ)

Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, make it a regular habit, and/or seek out a Spiritual Director

Go on a retreat, either guided or by yourself- Check out guided retreats at the Redemptorist Retreat Center, Schoenstatt Retreat Center, or Jesuit Retreat Center, or do your own at Holy Hill

Visit one of the many shrines around Wisconsin/Northern Illinois– Our Lady, Help of Christians in Hubertus, WI (Holy Hill); Our Lady of Guadalupe in Lacrosse; Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, WI; or The National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Marytown, IL.

**Questions for Reflection/Discussion**
If someone asked me why I am Catholic, what would my answer be?

Do I make a continued effort to learn more about Jesus, the Bible, the Church, and her teachings?

Would I be able to defend or explain my faith in the event that people question my beliefs?

What questions do I have about Church teachings and the faith?
**Formation Opportunities— Child, Youth, Young Adult**

**Child Formation (Grades K4-8)**

**Sunday School** (K4-8th) — meets from 9-10am on Sundays at St. Monica during the school year.

**Family Sundays**— 8:30am-12pm at St. Eugene, 9x per year. During this monthly mini-retreat, families expand their knowledge of Scripture and Catholic tradition, join in prayer, and participate in faith-based activities in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. Most importantly, families are equipped with the tools and resources to build households of faith.

**First Reconciliation/First Eucharist (2nd grade)** — All students participating in Sacramental Preparation (from Child Ministry and the Catholic schools) will attend several meetings with a parent in addition to their regular catechesis.

*One of the best ways to retain knowledge is to teach, so becoming a catechist or aid can help in your own personal formation! For more information about Child Formation or to volunteer, contact Jeanette Lambrecht at jlambrecht@stme.church or (414) 964-8780 ext 128.*

**Youth Formation (Grades 9-12)**

**Teen Nights (Grades 9/10)**- Teen Nights are evenings that include large group community time with prayer, worship and vibrant speakers followed by intentional small groups.

**Confirmation Preparation (Grade 11)**- Teens begin Sacrament preparation in October to be Confirmed in the spring. The purpose of this year is to prep teens for their own “vow,” of sorts. During the year, teens are asking questions, struggling through those questions, being given avenues to answer those questions, and hopefully, discovering what it really means to be a confirmed CATHOLIC.

**Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)**- Throughout the year we offer a variety of speakers, retreats, service experiences- including a Summer Mission Trip, Senior Discipleship, Study Nights, and Service Opportunities. We bring teens to national events such as the National Catholic Youth Rally and Steubenville Conferences as well as experiencing the local Church with ARISEmk and the Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally.

*Helping teens wrestle with questions as a small group leader can help in your own personal formation! For more information about Youth Formation or to volunteer, contact Meaghan Turner at mturner@stme.church or (414) 964-8780 ext 124.*

**Young Adult Ministry (20s & 30s)**

**BOOYA**

BLESSED ORDER OF YOUNG ADULTS

BOOYA is a ministry for those in their twenties and thirties that has various events throughout the year, including BOOYA After Hours, Campfire Catechism, and community meals centered around liturgical seasons.

Brew City Catholic is a ministry through the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that offers conferences, retreats, small group opportunities, Bible Studies, Campus Ministry and more. For more a full list or resources and information on how to get involved, go to archmil.org/Brew-City-Catholic.htm.

**Compass**

Compass is an enriching ministry dedicated to mothers of children ages 0-K5. Compass meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday (September—May) 9:30-11:00am in the STME Ministry Center at St. Monica Parish. Onsite childcare is provided, registration is required.

*For more info about Young Adult Ministry contact Meaghan Turner at mturner@stme.church or (414) 964-8780 ext 124.*
Adult Formation Opportunities

**For Men**

**Catholic Man Cave**— each Thursday at 5:45am in Donovan Hall, men of both parishes come together for formation, fellowship, and breakfast! There is also an evening group that meets every other Thursdays at 8pm. For more info contact catholicmancave@stme.church.

**Men of Christ**— a local 2-day conference happening on March 14, 2020. For more info go to menofchrist.net.

**For Women**

**Well Read Mom**— we have multiple groups that meet monthly to discuss classic literature through a Catholic lens. For more info check out wellreadmom.com.

**First Fruits**— this is a local organization that offers retreats and small groups for women. For more info go to firstfruits.info.

**Women of Christ**— a local 2-day conference happening on November 9, 2019. For more info go to womenofchrist.net.

For preparation to receive the Sacraments of Marriage or Infant Baptism, please contact the parish offices for more information and requirements.

St. Eugene (414) 918-1102
St. Monica (414) 332-1576

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic or receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, or Confirmation as an adult, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the way to go! Contact Heather Patrowsky for more information.

For questions regarding Vino et Veritas (a monthly ministry for all adults age 21+) or any/all other Adult Formation Opportunities, contact Heather Patrowsky at hpatrowsky@stme.church or 964-8780 ext 156

**Individual Resources for Formation**

**Formed.org**— The parishes have subscription that allows access to a wealth of information— Bible Studies, documentaries, apologetics, information about Sacraments, talks from Catholic speakers, movies, cartoons for kids, ebooks and audiobooks. Just go to Formed.org, search for St. Monica, in Whitefish Bay (even if you attend St. Eugene) then enter your name and email to begin learning!

**Vatican.va**— The official Vatican website that includes the archives of documents of the Church, including Council documents, papal encyclicals, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

**Usccb.org**— Find the daily readings, teachings about the faith, and actions to take as Catholics from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops.

**Archmil.org**— This is the website for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that includes all the ministries, events, and resources that we have available locally for a number of different issues and concerns.

**Catholic.com or catholic.org**— Two websites that serve the same purpose— go in, search a topic and find all that has been written or talked about regarding that subject.

**Wordonfire.org**— Bishop Robert Barron’s website with videos, articles, and resources for your own learning.

**Catholicsaints.info**— A great resource for learning about the 5,000+ canonized saints of the Church.