**Welcome to Faith Formation at Holy Cross Church – Linden**
*Supporting Your Child’s Journey in Faith*

The Faith Formation Program at Holy Cross Church is rooted in the mission of the Diocese of Stockton, which serves 35 parishes and 14 missions. We aim to respond to the needs of our local parish community while upholding the values and teachings of the Catholic Church.

As you begin thinking about this upcoming school year, it is also the perfect time to enroll them in our parish's Faith Formation Program—a journey in learning, worship, and service, supported by both family and parish.

**A Message from Bishop Myron J. Cotta**

In a pastoral letter to families, Bishop Cotta reminds us of the sacred commitment made by parents during their child’s baptism—to be the “**primary educators of your children in the ways of the Faith.”**

He writes:

“Together, learning and growing in the Faith as family will encourage an encounter with the Lord Jesus. This will lead to a greater appreciation of his gospel and its impact upon the ‘domestic church’ – the family!”

As we move forward in the spirit of family-based catechesis, we ask all families to join us in making faith formation a priority both at home and in the parish.

**Our Program**

Our Faith Formation Program is an **ongoing formation process**, typically beginning in **1st grade** and continuing through **Confirmation**, which is celebrated traditionally on the third Thursday of September at the beginning of their 8th grade year.

* **Class Time:** Wednesdays from 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM
* **First Day of Class & Mass**: Tuesday, September 10

We are blessed to have a team of **dedicated and knowledgeable catechism teachers** who share a deep love for the faith and a commitment to nurturing it in our children.

We proudly use faith-filled, age-appropriate materials including:

* **RCL Benziger** curriculum for grades **1st–5th**
* **Loyola Press** curriculum for **Confirmation Years 1 & 2**

**Enrollment Process**

When enrolling your child, you may be:

* Asked to confirm whether your family is registered with Holy Cross Church
* Asked to provide a **copy of your child’s baptismal certificate**
* Expected to pay a **registration fee**
* Encouraged to **volunteer or support** your child’s classroom and faith journey

**Mass Attendance Requirement**

To foster deeper faith within our families, we are requiring **each family (or at least one family member)** to attend Mass with their student on specific dates during the year. These shared liturgical experiences help strengthen your child’s understanding and love for the Catholic faith.

**Required Mass & Participation Dates**:

* **September 10** – Opening Mass (First Day of Catechism)
* **October 22** – Rosary in the Church (Month of the Rosary)
* **December 3** – Advent Opening Mass
* **February 18** – Ash Wednesday Mass
* **April 1** – Holy Week Mass
* **April 29** – Closing Mass (Last Day of Catechism)

In addition, families are asked to participate in:

* **One scheduled Family Mass**, based on your child’s grade level
* **One scheduled Stations of the Cross**, also by grade level

**Walking in Faith Together**

We are honored to walk alongside you in teaching your children the Catholic faith and helping them grow in their relationship with Christ. With your support—and through the grace of the Holy Spirit—we look forward to a meaningful and enriching catechetical year.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out.
**We are here to support you and your family every step of the way.**

With gratitude and prayers,
*The Holy Cross Faith Formation Team*