

August 28, 2022

Dear Parents,

It is time to begin our new year of Faith Formation. We look forward to a year of supporting you in your journey to teach your children our faith as given to us by our Lord and the Holy Catholic Church.

We remind you of the promise you made at the Baptism of your child to raise your child according to the laws and traditions of the Catholic Church. These include, but are not limited to, teaching them their prayers and praying with them daily, attending and supporting the education programs of your local parish, and most importantly partaking of the Sacraments and attending Mass on a weekly basis. This intentional dedication to living the faith is so much more important now than it ever has been with the state of the world and the lack of morals and Christian values.

In order to have true peace and happiness we need Jesus in our lives for strength to persevere, wisdom to make the hard decisions, and fortitude to stay the course on our journey to heaven.

We take our responsibility seriously and promise to teach the whole Faith, provide personal witness by living the faith daily, and set expectations of behavior and learning for all ages in the Faith Formation program.

Expectations for all Faith Formation Students

Mass attendance is mandatory for our Faith Formation students just as it is for all Catholics. The first time they miss they will be reminded of this rule, after the second miss they will meet with the Faith Formation Coordinator, and after a third miss will be a family meeting with Father Chichester. If you attend another Church for Mass, the children are instructed to bring to class a bulletin signed by the presiding Priest/deacon for proof of attendance.

We will expect our children to dress with Christian modesty at all times, and appropriately when attending Mass. Regardless of the world's idea of modest dress, ripped jeans and t-shirts are not Church wear, too short skirts/dresses, shorts, and tight clothes that outline the body have no place at God's table. Mass is God's banquet we should be respectful in His house.

Reconciliation: Students who have received Reconciliation are expected to partake of the sacrament before Faith Formation or as soon as possible after it begins. Students preparing for First Communion and Confirmation must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving the sacrament.

Learning Expectations:

- A list of prayers, age appropriate, will be provided for the children to learn.
- As a child grows and their understanding deepens, so will the material they are to learn. We encourage parents to explore the lessons with their children.
- Students will be tested periodically over the course of Faith Formation both orally and in written form.
- Sacramental classes (First Communion / Reconciliation and Confirmation) will be formally tested and must pass with a score of 85% or a child may have their sacrament delayed. Tests will be provided in advance. Non-sacramental classes must also pass with 85%.
- Sacramental preparation classes will be normally be 2 years of instruction with the reception of the sacrament at the end of the second year. If your child attends Faith Formation each year they will be on the right track.

Sacramental Interviews

An interview with Father Chichester will be the determining test of the child's readiness to receive their respective Sacrament; what have they learned about Jesus and the Church? Why do they desire to obtain said Sacrament? How important is Jesus in their lives? Have they been living the faith? Etc.

Conclusion

Together with our whole parish, we look forward to a beautiful year of learning the faith and deepening our relationship with God. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts and minds with knowledge of Him! May you love Him more deeply each and every day! Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Chichester &
The Catechesis Team