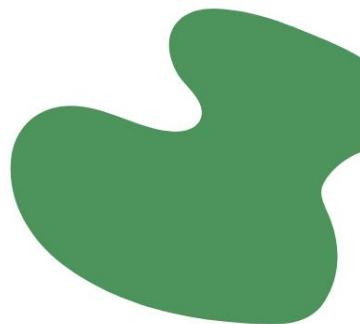




PARENT HANDBOOK

Faith Formation

A Guide for Parents and Families



830-693-5134

St. John the Evangelist - Marble Falls



LETTER TO FAMILIES



We are so glad that we get this opportunity to journey with you and your family as you grow in knowledge of your Faith. We are here to help guide you in this journey. Faith Formation is a lifelong journey that does not end but continues and grows throughout our life time. Remember we are asked to “Go forth and Spread the Gospel, Make Disciples of all” Thank you for sharing your children with us and for providing us with the opportunity to help support you in the formation of your children's Catholic faith. We pray that their time in Faith Formation will be a time of growth in faith, prayer, and love of Christ.

Contact Information:

Amy Corley

Director of Faith Formation



830-693-5134 option 4



faithformation@stjohnsmarblefalls.org



105 Hwy 1431 East Building #5
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FAITH FORMATION CURRICULUM

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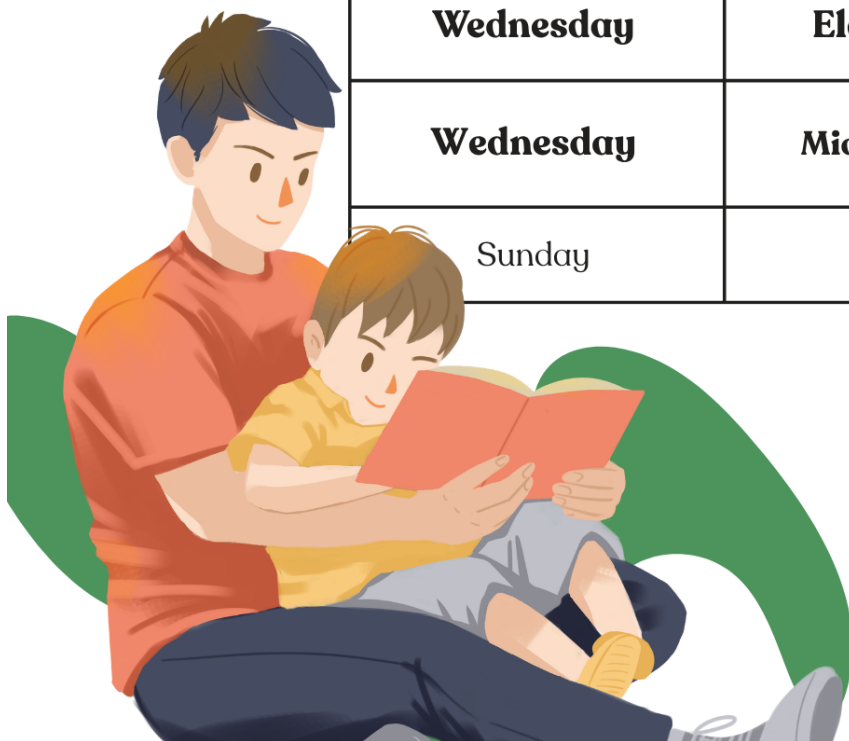


The Faith Formation curriculum for prekindergarten through 8th Grade is the **Pflaum–Gospel Weeklies**. Pflaum Gospel Weeklies program flows with each Sunday's gospel and students learn their faith within the rhythms and seasons of the Liturgical year.

All parishes in the Diocese of Austin is required to teach Empowering God's Children every school year to help educate all K-12th grade students about abuse prevention and personal safety.

Typical Class Schedule

DAY OF THE WEEK	CLASS
Monday	First Confession/First Communion
Wednesday	Elementary Classes at 5pm
Wednesday	Middle School Classes at 6:30pm
Sunday	High School Confirmation



CLASSES TYPICALLY MEET FOR
ONE HOUR A WEEK
THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL
YEAR, SEPTEMBER THRU MAY,
AND ARE TAUGHT BY VOLUNTEER
CATECHISTS AT THE PARISH.



GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Parent must complete a new registration form each year.

Students preparing for Sacramental Preparation classes must be registered by October.

FEE

Fees for classes is **\$25** per child or **\$60** per family of 3 or more.

Fees are due by October unless other arrangements are made through the Faith Formation Office. **We accept Cash, Checks and Credit Cards.**

(There is an extra fee for those who are using Credit Card.)

ATTENDANCE

Children who miss 4 or more classes regardless of reason will **not** be given credit for the year. Students in their 2nd year sacrament preparation must attend a minimum of **22** faith formation classes.

Bonus Work: Students are encouraged to complete this work at home for Faith Formation Attendance Credit.

BAD WEATHER

If on any scheduled day of Faith Formation classes, the Marble Falls public schools are closed due to inclement weather, Faith Formation classes will be automatically canceled.

EXPECTATIONS

- Students must arrive on time.
- Parents must bring their child to class, ensuring that a catechist is present and they are signed in.
- Food or drinks should not be brought to class, unless there is enough for all.
- Bathroom needs should be addressed before class.
- Classes are 1 hour long. Parents, please wait patiently
- Students will only be released to a parent, unless written permission is given

Safety Rules

- Parents must park in a designated parking spot.
- Road towards Parish Office is One Way.
- Students can not be left alone.
- Students not picked up 10 minutes after dismissal will be taken to the Faith Formation Office.





COMMUNICATION

CALENDAR

The Faith Formation calendar is given at the first of each year with specific closings due to holidays and **Holy Days of Obligation**. Every effort will be made not to deviate from the calendar. However, if a change does arise, parents will receive notice via email, flocknote, and /or written notice sent home in Take Home Folder.

NEWSLETTER

A once a month newsletter will be emailed and distributed to all Elementary and Middle School Classes. This newsletter will contain an up to date schedule of events and classes occurring during that particular month, and other important information.

TAKE HOME FOLDER

Elementary students will be given a folder that will have the Calendar, Prayers and additional information from the Faith Formation Office. Students will be required to bring this folder with them to each class. If this folder is lost or damaged, parents will be responsible for replacing the folder.

SUPPORT YOUR FAMILY

PRAYER

Model for your child how to pray. Begin and/end your day with prayer.
Help your child learn and understand essential prayers

ATTEND MASS REGULARLY

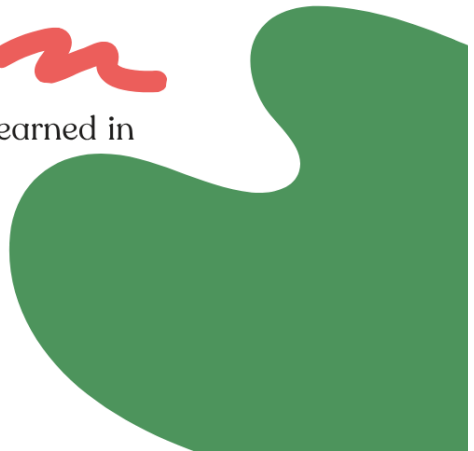
Participation in Sunday Mass is vital to our Catholic faith

Saturday Vigil: 5pm Sunday: 8am, 10am & 12pm (espanol)

Children learn best by example - bring them with you to Mass and talk about Mass afterwards.

TALK ABOUT FAITH

Take time to speak with your child about what they learned in class.
Read & discuss the Sunday readings.



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PARENT VOLUNTEER



Students are taught by volunteer catechists (teachers) who donate their time and talent to the children and youth of our parish.

Ways Parents Can Help

Class Catechist or Assistant

Weekly Office Volunteer

Special Event: Rosary in the Park, Christmas Party, Easter Egg Hunt, etc

Support children in completing homework and projects

Ethics and Integrity in Ministry

All volunteers, both catechists and office volunteers over the age of 18 must be EIM certified. Workshop attendance is required every 3 years after the initial EIM Workshop. There are three (3) steps required to become EIM compliant:

Please go to VIRTUS.org and click “first-time registrant”. Select Austin (Diocese) as your organization in the dropdown menu. Go through the registration process (appx. 5 minutes) and sign up for a live training workshop. You will see a list of workshops once you register. You need to attend a workshop within 30 days of becoming a volunteer.

The live training workshop is about 3-hour long and trains you how to recognize and report abuse as well as how to establish healthy boundaries.

If you have experienced sexual abuse and have concerns about viewing this training, please contact the EIM Office at (512) 949- 2447 or EIM@austindiocese.org to discuss alternative training.



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APPENDIX

All children, regardless of their academic model (public school, homeschool, private non-Catholic schools), should participate in their local parish catechetical programs to prepare for the reception of the sacraments and to fully participate in the life of their parish. “The parish is the most important focus in which the Christian community is formed and expressed” (General Directory for Catechesis, 257).



Parents should note that **Prekindergarten & Kindergarten** do not count towards your child’s sacramental year. Your child must be in **First Grade** for faith formation classes to be counted toward sacramental preparation.

Sacramental Preparation

The Diocese of Austin requires a minimum of two (2) consecutive full years of preparation before reception of the sacraments.

Baptism

Contact the Faith Formation Office regarding Baptism.

First Confession & First Communion

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion is a two-year program. Children must be 7 years old by September 1 (Grade 2) or older to participate in the First Confession & First Communion Preparation classes during their Year 2. Parents are required to attend Sacramental Preparation Classes with their child



High School Confirmation

Youth Confirmation is a two-year program and is open to students in 9th-12th grade. Students are also expected to participate in a number of monthly youth events.

QUINCEANERA

The quinceañera is a traditional celebration of life and gratitude to God on the occasion of the fifteenth birthday. A complete list of Guidelines on the Celebration of the Quinceañera at St. John the Evangelist–Marble Falls can be found on the parish website.



STAY CONNECTED

We encourage you to communicate frequently with your child's Catechist before or after class. The Director of Faith Formation is available during Faith Formation class times, parish office hours, and as needed, to assist families. Give us a call if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. There are no dumb questions!



flocknote



This is a free communication service that allow you to stay up to date with what is happening at St. John and the Faith Formation Program.

Information on how to sign up will be available the first of September. Parents will be asked to sign up for Flocknotes each year.



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