

St Louis Catholic Church – Faith Formation Grades 1 - 12

St Louis Catholic Church offers faith formation for our young parishioners, beginning when a student enters first grade and ending when the student completes their senior year of high school. We seek to offer a dynamic ministry that includes formation in the areas of evangelization, discipleship, prayer, and community life.

Parent Participation

This ministry is meant to be an addition to the way the Catholic faith is already taught and modeled within the home, because parents are the first and primary educators of the faith for their children. This obligation flows from their own personal baptismal promises and the promises they made on their wedding day to bring their children up “according to the law of Christ and his Church.” For this reason, parent participation at information meetings, especially during the years of sacramental preparation for first communion and confirmation, is required.

As part of this formation, we uphold the universal law of God and His Church to keep the sabbath holy. This means that in addition to the requirement to participate in the faith formation of their children, attendance at Mass every Sunday and participation in the sacramental and communal life of the Church is mandatory. We believe that it is impossible to fulfill the obligation to teach and model the faith without attending Sunday Mass. It is through entering into the Mass and living as a part of their Church family that your children will encounter the true source of formation, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

To reiterate, parents are required to take part in their child's formation and sacramental preparation by participating in classroom formation. Families and students are required to attend Mass every Sunday at St. Louis Church. **Mass attendance will be monitored.** Students who do not attend Mass on Sundays will not be able to move forward to the next level of instruction.

Registration:

- A registration form is required for each student
- Student and their parents must read and sign the code of conduct, liability form, and photo release form.
- Please note: Students in grades (1-6), parents must provide the names and telephone numbers for each person authorized to pick up their students. **Students will NOT be released to persons not listed on the Authorized persons form.**

Registration Fees:

- High School Student: \$100 per high school student,
- Middle School Student: \$75 per middle school student,
- Elementary School Student: \$75 per elementary school student,

Elementary School Faith Formation - Grades 1 - 6

Grades 1 - 6 will meet on Wednesdays evenings from 5:45pm - 7:00pm in the Bishop Louis Reicher Catholic School (Lower Campus). Every week, the children gather in a classroom setting, for prayer with their parents and other families to sing songs, and participate in an activity that taps into something they already know or have experienced and introduces the Sunday Gospel theme. Students proclaim the Gospel together with their families and then learn the related Church teaching and doctrine.

Middle School Faith Formation - Grades 7 - 8

Grades 7 - 8 will meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm in the SLAC (the St Louis Activity Center). These nights will present our Catholic faith in an interactive and engaging way, using small group discussions, activities, breakout sessions, and large group presentations.

Additionally, if students in middle school express interest in wanting to meet for leadership formation or a discipleship group for more in depth accompaniment in the faith, the youth ministry team will work to arrange these methods of formation.

Throughout the year, there will also be opportunities for middle schoolers to participate in special events, such as rallies, retreats, camps, prayer nights, trips, and socials. Information about these special events, including how to participate and, if necessary, register, will be sent out in weekly emails, posted in the parish bulletin and on the parish website.

High School Faith Formation - Grades 9 - 12

Discipleship Groups - Our parish provides youth with the opportunity to journey alongside their peers in the faith. Discipleship groups will provide a way for young people to grow in holiness together and be mainly based on discussion, prayer, and shared life together. These groups will create a space for youth to foster authentic and holy friendship with one another.

Each group will:

- Meet weekly at a time and location that works best for those in the group
- Be led by 2 adults who have gone through the Diocesan safe environment training
- Be open to any high school students, particularly those who have been confirmed, who are committed to intentionally growing in their faith.
- Have a commitment form that they sign at the beginning of the school year, outlining the expectations of being a part of the group

It is important that all young people participating in a Discipleship Group be registered in the parish faith formation program. This provides the youth ministry team with contact information for the student, permission to carry out ministry, and funds to provide supplies to the group. After registering for faith formation, the youth ministry team will contact you about placing your child in a small group.

Youth Night - Once a month, the youth ministry team will host an outreach event for all high school youth in the community. The main goal of these nights is to provide young people with a place to have fun together and build friendship. There will be food, activities, and lots of joy.

Sacramental Formation Classes for Confirmation - For those students seeking to receive Confirmation, there will be sacramental formation classes held twice a month to help youth understand the teachings of the Church and what it means to live as a confirmed Catholic. These classes are required by the Diocesan as the faith formation students must receive prior to confirmation.

In addition, in the few months leading up to their reception of the sacrament, students will participate in several intensive sessions and attend days of retreat. Details about these times of more focused preparation are included below and outlined on the parish website.

Special Events - Throughout the year, there will also be opportunities for high schoolers to participate in special events, such as conferences, retreats, camps, prayer nights, trips, and socials. Information about these special events, including how to participate and, if necessary, register, will be sent out in weekly emails, posted in the parish bulletin and on the parish website.

Sacramental Preparation for children and youth

First Communion and First Confession

Preparation for First Communion and First Reconciliation traditionally begins in second grade, ideally following a previous year of faith formation or catechesis. Our program is designed to prepare our students with the help of their parents to properly form and prepare their children for First Confession and Holy Communion by helping them understand God's great love for them shown in these two beautiful sacraments. The time required is evaluated on an individual basis and dependent on the level of formation of the student.

Confirmation

The Diocese of Austin states that for a student to be eligible to receive the sacrament of Confirmation they should have reached the 10th grade and must have completed *at least* 2 consecutive years of formation, leading up to the year in which they are confirmed. To receive credit for a year of formation, the student must have attended more than 70% of the formation classes. If a student meets all these requirements, they can then display their readiness to receive the sacrament, by providing proof of formation and participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

Once a student is approved to enter into the more intensive time of sacramental preparation for confirmation, their formation will consist of a weekend retreat, several additional weekday sessions, a day retreat, and a rehearsal. As with other sacramental preparation at the parish,

parent involvement is a required part of formation. A parent will be expected to attend a confirmation parent meeting and a parent or sponsor must attend each weekday session, the day retreat and the confirmation rehearsal with their student.

Persons with Special Circumstances

Catch-up Sacramental Preparation for Un-catechized Catholics

When a student enrolls, who is baptized Catholic but has missed or was absent from sacramental preparation for a significant period of time, they will be evaluated by one of the faith formation team members to assess their personal formation needs. If in the pastoral judgment of the pastor and those responsible, they are deemed in need of additional formation (known as being un-catechized) they will be placed in a separate sacramental preparation process to better assist them and their family. This additional preparation can take multiple years as it is largely dependent on each student's formation needs. Our goal is to do what is best for the soul of each student, which means an individualized approach regarding the reception of the sacraments. According to diocesan rules, as an uncatechized Catholic, when they are ready to receive their sacraments they will receive confirmation in addition to first communion and confession.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Unbaptized Children over the age of 7

When a student enrolls who is unbaptized they will receive additional instruction, known as RCIC, to facilitate their formation and growth in the faith. This process is separate from uncatechized baptized Catholics and, at the discretion of the pastor, can be accomplished either through classroom instruction or individual instruction. The time involved in this process is largely dependent on the readiness of the children and their family, meaning it can take multiple years if warranted. Again, our goal is not only the healthy formation of the child but their family.

Faith Formation Team Contact Information:

Zulma Diaz-Rosa (DRE) Director of Religious Education (Grades 1st - 6th) - Coordinates RCIC and the Sacramental Catch Up Program

Office Number: 254-754-2041 ext. 218

Email: zulma@stlouiswaco.com

Alyssa Truter - Youth Ministry Team Lead (Grades 7th - 12th)

Greg Vanderheiden - Youth Ministry Missionary - Focus on Grades 9th - 12th

Brandon Jaquish - Youth Ministry Missionary - Focus on Grades 7th - 8th

Parish Office Number: 254-754-1221 or Youth Ministry Number: 254-374-5224

Email: youthministry@stlouiswaco.com

Faith Formation Registration Payment Form
Please write legibly as you fill out the following information:

Parents' Names: _____

Father's Cell: _____ Mother's Cell: _____

Parish Where Family is Registered: _____

If not registered at St. Louis and you would like to become a registered member of our St Louis parish family, please fill out a registration form at stlouiswaco.com or call the parish office at 254 - 754 - 1221

If new to the parish or faith formation program, please attach a copy of each child's baptismal certificate.

Elementary School Participants - Grades 1 - 6

\$75 per elementary school student, \$200 for 3 or more elementary school students

	Name	Gr 21-22 School Yr:	Amount Due:
Elementary Student 1:	_____	_____	_____
Elementary Student 2:	_____	_____	_____
Elementary Student 3:	_____	_____	_____
Elementary Student 4:	_____	_____	_____

Middle School Participants - Grades 7 - 8

\$75 per middle school student, \$200 for 3 or more middle school students

	Name	Gr 21-22 School Yr:	Amount Due:
Middle School Student 1:	_____	_____	_____
Middle School Student 2:	_____	_____	_____
Middle School Student 3:	_____	_____	_____
Middle School Student 4:	_____	_____	_____

High School Participants - Grades 9 - 12

\$100 per high school student, \$250 for 3 or more high school students

	Name	Gr 21-22 School Yr:	Amount Due:
High School Student 1:	_____	_____	_____
High School Student 2:	_____	_____	_____
High School Student 3:	_____	_____	_____
High School Student 4:	_____	_____	_____

Total Faith Formation Registration Fees: _____

Faith Formation Registration Form

Please write legibly as you fill out the following information:

Student Name: _____ Grade 21-22 School Yr: _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Student Email Address: _____

Student Birthday: _____ Student Age: _____

School Participant Attends: _____

Sacraments Needed: ☐ Baptism ☐ First Communion ☐ Confirmation

Baptismal Date: _____ Church of baptism: _____

For high school students:

Are you wanting to be placed in a Discipleship Group? Y / N

Are you seeking sacramental preparation for Confirmation? Y / N - Year 1 or Year 2

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Participant Allergies, Medical Conditions or Special Needs: _____

Additional information you'd like us to know about your child: _____

If child attended faith formation for the 2020 – 2021 year at a church other than St Louis, please list the name, address, and phone number of the church where they attended:

For elementary students, please any adults who are authorized to pick up this participant:

Adult: _____ Phone Number: _____

Adult: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parental Consent

- A. The undersigned represent that they are the parents or legal guardians of Participant(s) and have full authority under law to sign this document. Parents grant permission for Participant(s) to enroll and participate in St Louis Faith Formation.
- B. Participant(s) and Parents voluntarily seek to participate in St Louis Faith Formation; which may involve physical activity that involves risk of injury. Participant(s) and Parents will abide by all policies and rules established by those persons facilitating or overseeing the event; Parents and Participant(s) are responsible for their conduct during the event, as well as responsible for any damages, claims, or other costs caused by Participant(s) or incurred as a result of their conduct; If conduct of Participant(s) is inappropriate, unsafe or detrimental to the Event, other participants or other persons, facilitators may suspend or expel Participant(s) from the event and future events.
- C. In the event of an emergency, Parents grant permission for facilitators to seek and authorize emergency medical care for the Participant(s) (for example, first aid, medication, anesthesia, or surgery) The facilitators will make reasonable attempts to notify Parents prior to authorizing any such emergency care.
- D. Parents grant Parish permission to transport Participant(s) in Church/School vehicles to regularly scheduled events including but not limited to retreats, service days, and social events.
- E. Parents grant Parish permission to photograph and video tape Participant(s) during the event; and to use the photographs and video tapes in publications and promotions of the Parish and Ablaze Ministries, including but not limited to publications such as websites, newsletters, advertisements, social media apps, and yearbooks.
- F. To the extent permitted by law, Parents, for themselves and for Participant(s) release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Parish, Diocese, and Ablaze Ministries from any and all liability, claims, demands, and costs which may arise as a result of Participant(s) participation in faith formation or which is, in any way, related to such participation. This paragraph covers loss under any theory of loss (negligence or otherwise) including but not limited to personal injury or property damage. Parents and Participants assume all risk of injury or loss to themselves or their property.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Elementary Student - CCE Code of Conduct

Parents

1. I will attend Mass weekly with my family
2. I will help my students with their prayers
3. I will help my students with their packet and participate in digital learning sessions with them
4. I will take my student to turn in their packet and pick up their new packet every week
5. I will attend all mandatory meetings or I will send a responsible adult in my place
6. I can serve in the following ministry: Please circle those which apply:
 - Faith Formation Teacher
 - Faith Formation Teacher Assistant
 - Make copies for teachers
 - Pray for the students, their families, teachers and all volunteers

Parent Signature: _____

Students

1. I will encourage my parents to take me to church every sunday
2. I will practice all my prayers daily
3. I will get my packet done weekly
4. I will remember to turn in my homework every week
5. I can help my teacher and classmates by:
 - Paying attention in class
 - Arrive early to class so as not to cause distractions
 - I will be respectful and speak when is my turn
 - I will use the restroom before I come to class to avoid disrupting class
 - I will respect my classmates and my teachers
 - I will pray daily for my family, teachers, and volunteers

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

High School and Middle School Code of Conduct

- I understand that my participation in the youth ministry St Louis is to help me grow in my relationship with God, to follow Him as a disciple, through growing in community, prayer, and receiving the sacraments of the Church.
- I know that God enters into my life through the sacraments, so I will attend Mass every Sunday, as required for part of my faith formation, and go to Confession regularly.
- I will be on time to all classes and gatherings. I understand that arriving late may result in my not receiving credit for being present at that class.
- I will respect the adult ministers and my peers, by being open, having a good attitude, and viewing them as my brothers and sisters in Christ. I understand that I will get out what I put into the ministry event and I will be open to the experience.
- I will dress modestly and appropriately at all times, for both in person meetings and in digital sessions, in a way that acknowledges my dignity as a child of God. I understand that if I am dressed in an inappropriate or immodest way, I may be asked to change or be sent home from youth night.
- I will not participate in gossip or bullying because this destroys healthy community and is a counter witness to the love of Christ.
- I will be invested in each night and not distracted by electronic devices before /during class. For digital sessions, I will only use the electronics needed for the digital session, and I will not be distracted by other technological devices.
- I understand that, if I am using any unnecessary electronic device during a faith formation event, I will be asked to put the device away. If I continue to use the device after being asked to put it away, I understand that the device may be taken from me for the remainder of the youth event. If collected, the device will be returned at the end of the youth ministry event.
- I understand that appropriate behavior is expected, and that inappropriate behavior will result in my parents being notified and possible suspension from Faith Formation activities.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____