



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office of Religious Education

Dear Parents,

As the Director of Religious Education at St. Francis Xavier Parish, I would like to invite you to take advantage of our Religious Education Programs set up to help your child grow in their Catholic faith and to help them prepare for the sacraments. We are now taking registrations for your child's continuing Religious Education in our Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation Programs. If you have a child in grades Kindergarten – 10th, and they do not attend a Catholic School, they should be registered in the Faith Formation Program which meets weekly at the parish starting in September. This is an unprecedented year due to the pandemic. We want to assure you we will be doing all we can to provide a safe learning environment. Simultaneous Zoom online classes will be an option for those who choose, however, please note this will be much different than what we did at the end of last year. Students will be required to fully participate at the same times as those students in person. This will be explained in detail during the orientation.

Please understand, according to Diocese of Venice Guidelines, that when your child receives a sacrament (First Holy Communion (grade 2) or Confirmation (grade 10)) that it is a two CONSECUTIVE year process. Meaning, if your child was not in Faith Formation last year and is entering the 2nd grade this year, they will receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion in the 3rd grade, after completing at least one full year prior. Confirmation is administered in the 10th grade, provided they were in Faith Formation last year in the 9th grade, or were in Catholic School.

If you child attends St. Francis Xavier School or Bishop Verot, they receive their Faith Formation at their school so they do not need to sign up for weekly Faith Formation Classes, however, if they are to receive a sacrament this year (First Holy Communion in the second grade, or Confirmation in the tenth grade), then they only need to register for the Sacramental Prep Class (Sacramental Preparation Classes are once a month starting in November) and youth group for Confirmation Students (grades 9 & 10).

Registration packets are available in the parish office, at Church during registration weekend September 5 & 6, or online at our website: www.stfrancisfm.org. Please fill out ALL 4 FORMS (Registration, Medical Authorization, Photo Image Release, and Third Party Pickup Release). Please fill out one set of forms **per child**, and bring them completed with you to the parish office, along with registration fees, and a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate.

We will also be taking registrations after all Masses on the weekend of September 5th & 6th. To save yourself some time, please download the forms from the website listed above and bring the completed forms with you. Or take a registration packet from the registration table and bring it back with you. **ONLINE REGISTRATION:** You may also register and pay online by clicking the “Online Giving” icon on the parish home page. Then you will need to click the round “Online Giving” icon on the Online Giving Page. Then you will need to choose Religious Education/Faith Formation. You will be able to fill out the brief registration info and pay online, but will be emailed the other forms which need to be completed.

The fee for the Faith Formation programs is only \$45 per child or just \$60 for a family. Sacramental Preparation Classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are an additional \$30. There is no charge for St. Francis Xavier School and Bishop Verot Students taking the Sacramental Preparation Classes. Please present payment and a copy of baptismal certificate at the time of registration. Scholarships are available to those who qualify, please do not let the fees prevent you from registering. Please contact me if you need scholarship information. **Registration fees only cover a small portion of the actual cost to the parish, so you must be registered with the parish in order to register in the Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation Classes.**

Public School parents/guardians (no children please) are required to attend orientation on Wednesday, September 23rd, at 6:00p.m. in Xavier Hall, for information and expectations of the entire year. This includes all information pertaining to new measures taken to keep your child safe during the pandemic as well as important information for those who choose to do the zoom classes. Classes start on September 30th and will be Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30p.m., meeting in Xavier Hall. There will not be a simultaneous in person Adult Faith Formation for parents at this time. Adult Faith Formation will be offered via Zoom at a different time.

Catholic School Parents who register for Sacramental Preparation Classes (for First Holy Communion and Confirmation) do not need to attend the orientation on Wednesday, September 23rd. You will receive a letter in the mail with a schedule of the Sacramental Preparation Classes (which start in November) after you register. If your child is registering for Confirmation, then they must also register and attend our High School Youth Group.

I look forward to seeing your registrations come in or seeing you on our registration weekends!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Michael Reardon
Director of Religious Education