

Parent Handbook St. Lawrence Faith Formation

Welcome to the Religious Education program at St. Lawrence Parish. It is our privilege to help you share our Catholic faith with your children.

ATTENDANCE

Regardless of grade, if your child must miss class please call or text **262-305-7399**.

High School and Middle School

- Two excused absences are permitted per year.
- Make up lessons are available upon request. Any teen missing more than two sessions should ask for make-up work.

Elementary School:

If your student has missed a large number of classes (more than four), please contact your Coordinator to get make up work for the classes missed. It is important that your child learn the material covered so that he/she can advance to the next grade level.

SACRAMENTS

To get the most out of the Faith Formation experience, the child should be enrolled in each year of the program. This is particularly important as they are preparing to receive the Sacraments. First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are traditionally celebrated in the second grade; Confirmation is traditionally celebrated in the eleventh grade.

Children are to attend Religious Education for two years prior to receiving First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (first and second grade). Preparation for Confirmation begins in ninth grade; participation during ninth, tenth and eleventh grade is expected for Confirmation candidates. Please contact the Coordinator if you are in need of “catch-up” formation due to past attendance issues.

SERVICE PROJECTS

As part of their Faith Formation, every person will learn to share their time, talent and treasures with others. This takes the form of service projects. For the children in preschool-grade 5, they will participate in service projects as a group – this could be with their own class, their grade level, or an even larger group – most projects take place during Advent and/or Lent. Particularly regarding money or other collections, students participate as they are able. It is not our aim to impose a hardship on any family. One penny or one can of veggies given with the right intention is far more valuable than many dollars or objects given without thought.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL FORMATION REQUIREMENTS

In addition to attending faith formation sessions, each teen must complete **6 FIATs**
- at least one from each category; and the remaining three are their choice.

Categories Include: Parish Service Project
Community Service Project
Class (or Youth) Retreat Experience

See grade specific schedules for more details.

- **F.I.A.T. - Faith In Action Testimonial** - This includes our Retreat and Service Project requirements for middle and high school participation
- Growing in faith extends beyond classroom learning. We grow as disciples of Jesus Christ when we experience Faith in Action through Catholic Retreats, Service Opportunities, and Faith-Based Experiences or Activities.
- We are all called to a personal relationship with our Lord and God. Retreats help us to stretch and grow in our relationship with God, to experience His Love in new and exciting ways. Service Projects give us the opportunity to respond to God's Love for us by sharing that love in service to others.
- The FIAT program introduces young people to a variety of faith-based experiences and then allows them to choose opportunities that best suit their interests.

A listing of FIAT opportunities and permission forms will be available in your Formation folder, on the parish website under Faith Formation and in the Formation office. Additional opportunities will be emailed as they become available.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Behavioral expectations are based on Jesus' command to Love as He loves. There are only a few rules but they should be followed in the spirit of Christian Charity:

1. When is speaking, everyone else is quiet.
2. I will raise my hand when I want to speak.
3. I will stay in my seat unless instructed to move.
4. I will keep my hands, feet and comments to myself.
5. I will always be respectful of other teens, adults and myself.
6. Church is a sacred space and I will treat it as such.

Behavior Issues are dealt with on a "case by case" basis between the Coordinator and Parent.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Everyone is asked to turn off their cell phones during class. Anyone found using their cell phone during class will be asked to place it in the basket in the middle of the table until the end of class.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress appropriately for all formation sessions and activities:

- If you would not wear it to Church, do not wear during formation.
- Dress correctly for the weather conditions
- No short shorts or short skirts, ripped pants, tank tops, low cut shirts, or low riding pants
- No shirts with alcohol or drug references, or with questionable messages or pictures. No hats may be worn during formation

PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Please schedule the use of regular medications around the class schedule. In the particular circumstance where a medication must be taken during class time, contact the Coordinator in advance to make arrangements. Non-prescription medications will not be dispensed.

SAFETY CONCERNS

- Parents are always welcome to observe their child's class after coming to the Faith Formation office for a nametag. Be sure your child knows who they are going home with. This is especially important for families with custodial arrangements.
- First aid kits are available throughout the buildings. If a student is injured or ill they have the option to call for an early ride home.
- Per Archdiocesan regulations, we offer a class regarding safe environment to all students. **This is not sex education.** We instruct the students about how to stay safe and healthy because they are God's children.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Whenever classes are cancelled, we will send out an email. *If you prefer a text or phone call please advise Sandi as soon as possible. A good rule of thumb: If Slinger Schools are canceled, we will cancel. **Never** endanger yourself or your child by coming to class in bad weather. No student will "get in trouble" for missing class under these circumstances. If in doubt, choose safety!

CONTACT INFORMATION

The following are the correct numbers to call in case of questions. **PLEASE** do not call the pastor or the parish office!

Faith Formation Office: 262-644-5701 ext 1

Sandi Dhein Cell Phone: 262-305-7399 text or call.