

Saint Joseph School of Catholic Formation

Policy and Procedures

Our Mission

St Joseph Catholic Church Faith Formation program follows guidelines set by the Diocese of Raleigh. It is our goal to provide a sound religious education program, catechizing our youth in partnership with their parents, allowing each child to grow in their faith. By actively participating in the Mass and developing strong Catholic traditions, a child makes a habit of living a virtuous life, thus deepening their relationship with God.

Safe Environment Every effort is made to ensure the safety of all God's children entrusted to us. Volunteers undergo background checks and mandatory Diocesan training. Our first level of emergency preparedness begins with communication. The completed registration form provides information that helps to address any emergencies that may arise. Families provide phone and email at registration.

Diocesan Policy: <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/child-and-youth-protection/child-and-youth-protection>

Attendance

Class Times: Sundays 10:15-11:15* A calendar is provided for each family.

In addition to classes, all children must attend Sunday Mass either in person or online. We offer 30 classes in between the two Sunday Masses so parents and children may participate in Mass together. Students absent from class must keep up with work at home. Required meetings and retreats are announced early. **In the event of serious inclement weather conditions stay safe and don't drive.** Cancellation details will be emailed.

Arrival and Pick Up: Please follow classroom map. Pre-K and Kinders arrive and pick up at outside classroom door. Grades 1-5 use door nearest the community room. Grades 6, 7, and Confirmations use door near the playground. Post Confirmation and Catch Up Class use the back entrance to St Monica Hall near the kitchen. Parents please wait outside until 11:15 to pick up your child.

***If you are unavoidably late for pick up, your child will be kept safe just inside the church entrance.**

Code of Conduct

The respect and dignity of all persons is valued. Students should come to class ready and willing to learn and participate. All students are expected to behave respectfully toward their teachers and fellow students. Each class post guidelines. Cell phones and electronic devices are not allowed in class unless they are turned off and out of sight. **Dress Code:** All students are expected to dress modestly and groom themselves neatly in clothes that are suitable for Church and Faith Formation. No advertisements, bare shoulders, tight or short clothing. Disruptive behavior could result in parents being asked to accompany students to class, individual tutoring, or removal from the program.

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Faith and Life Catechetical Series

Faith and Life is the text for our curriculum. It includes lessons incorporating four components of catechesis: Creed, Commandments, Sacraments and Liturgy, Prayer and Scripture. The Faith and Life series presents Catholic teaching using the time-tested ecclesial methodology and spiral development of catechesis, in a beautiful, student-friendly, comprehensive format.

Ignatius Press Resources: <https://www.ignatius.com/promotions/faithandlife/parish-ccd/index.html>

Our program meets and exceeds Diocese of Raleigh curriculum standards:

<https://dioceseofraleigh.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/ReligionCurriculum.pdf>

Sacramental Preparation

We follow guidelines established by the Diocese of Raleigh and based on the Code of Canon Law. In cooperation with this we provide a two year plan for preparation for the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation.

- First Communion Preparation begins at age 6 or older in which basic prayers are learned. The second year includes preparation for First Penance and then Holy Communion early in May. Parent Meetings are required.
- Confirmation Preparation begins at age 13 and up with one year of preparation with intensive study of the essentials of the faith. Year two reviews these concepts and discusses Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Retreats are held both years.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC) is for children over 7, who are not baptized. It provides two years of instruction in preparation for Baptism and First Communion at the following Easter.
- Homeschool Option is for families who choose to homeschool for sacramental prep. A registration form is required both years. Students will receive the sacrament with their St. Joseph peers at a special Mass. Parent Meetings are required.