

FAITH FORMATION - BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LIFE

Holy Spirit Parish Avon Lake, Ohio

Diocesan Guidelines

In the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, the parish school of religion facilitates an encounter with Jesus Christ through the following:

- Liturgical celebrations and prayer
- Proclamation of the of Sacred Scripture and Church teaching
- Preparation for sacraments
- Development of Christian community
- Opportunities for Christian service
- Embracing the richness of Christian cultural diversity

GRADES FIVE THROUGH EIGHT

If you follow Kohlberg's study of developmental theory, children are refining their understanding of interpersonal relationships and maintaining social order.

In our curriculum, we study the Mass and sacraments, the Old Testament, who was Jesus and church history. In doing so, we are placing before the student the academic side of understanding God's faithful relationship to us and how he/she fits into the picture.

Faith is a lived experience. It cannot be isolated to a textbook and classroom. We are, therefore, adding a set of required activities to the curriculum. Each student is going to be asked to participate in one activity per month outside of the classroom. He/she will submit an activity form that requires a short response to three questions: What activity did I participate in? Explain the activity? How did what I experienced help me grow?

The following list includes some of the options available to students. Activities not listed will be acceptable as long as the child grows from the experience.

DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY/OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Participate in Youth Group.

Volunteer to help with a Ladies' Guild Project.

Help to decorate the Church for Christmas or Easter.

Help at a parish event, like the pancake breakfast or Trunk or Treat.

Visit someone who is sick.

Help out in your neighborhood.

Participate in a charitable activity in the community.

Take the time to call someone who might be lonely.

Sort out your clothes/toys and donate something to someone who has less than you do.

Study the Works of Mercy and act upon one of them.

Practice patience when it is really hard to focus on the work before you.

Make a sacrifice in order to do a kindness for someone in your family.

EMBRACING THE RICHNESS OF CHRISTIAN CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Go to Mass at a Church when the Mass is not said in English.

Visit a non-Catholic Church.

Participate in a family cultural Christian activity which includes special foods or observances for holidays.

Learn about the Jewish Seder Meal and how it connects to the Mass.

Attend an Eastern Catholic Liturgy.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS/PRAYER

Participate in a Mass outside of Sunday.

Be an altar server.

Participate in Holy Spirit Youth Choir.

Help at Youth Mass.

Attend a Communal Penance Service.

Attend a Triduum Service or the Chrism Mass.

Attend Taize Prayer Service.

Attend a Baptism.

Pray the rosary.

Attend a Stations of the Cross Service.

PROCLAMATION OF THE SACRED SCRIPTURE AND CHURCH TEACHING

Attend an Advent or Lenten Program at the parish.

Read the Bible with your family.

Do activity suggested in our monthly newsletter.

Read/View a resource on Formed.org.

Approved for 2019-2020 Program

