

**Faith Formation Program**

**2020-2021 Policies**

**Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Children’s Faith Formation program at Holy Spirit Parish is to help all participants and their families develop a relationship with Jesus Christ and to live out their Catholic faith in ways that draw others to Christ*

*and the Church.*

### **Options for Faith Formation this year due to Covid-19:**

We know that parents are the first and most integral teachers of the faith and we want to support families in this key mission. (see CCC 2251)

**Traditional Classes:**

* Children ages PreK\*-12th grade.
* No cost. At Holy Spirit we do not ask a fee. If you feel called to contribute, you may make an additional online offering and label it Children’s Faith Formation.
	+ In Class: Sundays from 9:15am – 10:45am (see calendar).
		- All curriculum provided (with distance learning option anytime needed).
		- Each family will be responsible for providing a pencil box with supplies. (See supply list.)
		- We will be following the Holy Spirit Elementary safe at school plan. Children will be distanced 6-feet apart while walking in hallways, in classrooms, will wash and sanitize hands when entering the class and when they use the restroom, masks will be required for all students and adults, and rooms will be sanitized frequently and after each use. **\*See Covid Safe at Faith Formation Plan for more details.**
		- At any time we have to shut down our program and be forced to go remote. Or, your family may need to take weeks to be at home if you are symptomatic. If this happens, parents will be responsible for distance learning.
	+ Distance Learning: done at home with a parent/guardian.
		- Guidance will be offered by our office.
		- All curriculum provided (see attendance policy).
		- You will have a calendar week to complete assignments with your child beginning on Sunday. We will check what has been completed through our analytics the following Sunday.

\*For the 2020-2021 school year, PreK will ONLY be offered in the Distance Learning format due to Covid-19.

**Family Catechesis Program:**

* Each family who has signed up for our Faith Formation classes will be included in the Family Catechesis program.
* If your child attends our local Catholic schools, your family can still register to participate in our Family Catechesis program. Contact the office if you’d like to receive the binder and participate. No need to register your child if they will not be attending Sunday Children’s Faith Formation.
* Each family will receive a Family Catechesis binder with monthly at-home lessons (fun engaging lessons with the purpose of creating conversations of faith between children and parents).
* Monthly parent meetings during our Faith Formation “hour” (see calendar).
* Quarterly Family Celebrations during our Faith Formation “hour” (see calendar).

### **Attendance Policy**

Parents are strongly encouraged to make every effort to have their child attend the Faith Formation sessions offered at the parish if their child is not attending our local Catholic schools. (Catholic school children are still allowed to participate if parents would like to attend Adult classes.)

* For in class learner: if your child needs to be absent, please let your child’s catechist know.
* If you are choosing to do Distance Learning, assignments are due Saturday. You will have a calendar week to complete assignments with your child beginning on Sunday. We will check what has been completed through our analytics the following Sunday.

If a child misses several Faith Formation classes, we will be in contact to find out what the circumstances are and how we can help.

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

Class times are from 9:15am-10:45am on Sundays. Please be prompt about drop off and pick up times.  **To respect the catechists and those attending 11am Mass, it is important to pick up on time at 10:45am!** **\*See Covid Safe at Faith Formation Plan for more details.**

**Parents during the Faith Formation hour**

We know that our faith is a life-long journey and we encourage you to attend class while your child is in their Faith Formation class on Sunday mornings. Therefore, the following options are available to you:

* Volunteer as a Catechist Aide.
* Sunday Adult Faith Formation (lecture series led by Tom Riello).
	+ See Adult Faith Formation Calendar.
* Sunday Adult Bible Study (video/book format led by Mark Sadie).
	+ Follows our Children’s Faith Formation Calendar.
* Family Catechesis Parent Small Groups (parent led Gospel Study).
	+ Follows our Children’s Faith Formation Calendar.
* RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults .
	+ Please contact Liz Gregorius at (334)324-1320 or email lizgregorius@charter.net

**Pick Up Authorization**

This will look drastically different this year. **\*See Covid Safe at Faith Formation Plan for more details.**

### **Student Behavior and Expectations**

Students will be expected to show respect to their teachers and classmates. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Classroom rules are discussed in each classroom.At the first disruption, the child will be directed to review the classroom rules. After the second incident, the child will be sent to talk with the PCL. If inappropriate behavior continues, the parent/guardian will be contacted.

**Class Cancellation**

### In the event that class is cancelled, a REMIND text alert and an email will be sent out as soon as possible alerting families of the cancellation and a push notification will be sent from our parish app. \*Please download the parish app and opt in to the Faith Formation notifications. Look for “Holy Spirit Catholic Parish” in your Play Store or App Store. We will also post on our Holy Spirit Facebook page as well as post physical notes on the door, when able.

\*\*Sign up for the REMIND by texting @hsff2020 to 81010.

**Wellness Policy**

* Students are not allowed to attend Faith Formation Classes when sick with any of the following symptoms:
* fever within the last 48 hours (fever is considered a temperature of 99.9 or higher)
* vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
* excessive coughing, sneezing, runny nose, or watery eyes within 48 hours
* any type of contagious or communicable disease such as flu, chicken pox, coxsackie virus, pink eye, or lice
* if diagnosed positive for Covid-19
* If a student or member of his/her household tests positive for Covid-19, all students of that family will be required to quarantine for a minimum of 14 days as recommended by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH).Quarantine can end after the following criteria have been met:
	+ At least 14 days from onset of symptoms AND at least 3 days (72 hours) after recovery
* Catechists and other personnel are not allowed to dispense or administer medication to students.
* **\*See Covid Safe at Faith Formation Plan for more details.**

**Family Commitment**

* I promise to support my child’s faith formation by having our family follow the five precepts of the Church, as described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2041-2043.
* Attend and participate in Sunday Mass every week as well as on Holy Days of Obligation.
* Confessing your sins at least once a year.
* Receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season.
* Observing the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
* Contributing weekly to the financial needs of the parish through recordable donations (Envelopes, Check, or Online Giving).
* As a part of the Faith Formation program, parents are committing to engage in their child’s faith formation in the following ways:
* Practice my faith and be an example to my family.
* Encourage attendance to Sunday Faith Formation Classes.
* Daily prayer such as: morning offering, night prayer, and grace before meals.
* Read and studying Scripture with my family (example: read Sunday readings before Mass).
* Attend the monthly Family Catechesis parent meetings.
* Attend the Sacramental Parent Meetings appropriate for your child.
* Attend the Family Celebrations.
* Attend Family Adoration on the First Friday night of the month.
* Participate in the other sponsored events put on by the Office of Faith Formation.

***\*\* We understand that each family is making decisions based on Covid-19 and social distancing. Whatever you decide is acceptable during this pandemic. If you cannot be here in person, we know you will make efforts to watch Mass online and supplement your domestic church at home. \*\****

* At Holy Spirit Parish we are partnering with parents to provide faith formation that will help the child to grow in catechesis, spiritual growth, and service. We ask God to help you to be active catechists in your home, the “domestic church”.

**Communication**

Communication from the Faith Formation Office will primarily come in the form of:

* Emails.
* Remind text alerts. (Sign up for the REMIND by texting @hsff2020 to 81010.)
* Push notifications from our parish app. (Please download the parish app and opt in to the Faith Formation notification.)
* Website.
* Facebook page.
* Bulletin.

**Parent Orientation**

All families are required to have one parent attend Orientation.

* Pick up of materials (for in class & distance learners) will be on Sunday, September 13th from 9:15am-10:45am. Mandatory for all families.
* Watch the mandatory parent orientation video on our website. It will be available on Sunday, September 13th.
* Covid Safe at Faith Formation Plan will be given out when you pick up your materials.

**Sacraments**

* First Reconciliation is prepared for and celebrated first semester of 2nd grade (during regular FF classes).
* First Communion is prepared for and celebrated second semester of 2nd grade (during regular FF classes)
* Confirmation is celebrated in the fall of 11th grade. There is a year of preparation beginning in January of their 10th grade year. We meet monthly on Sunday nights. Please see our website for information or contact the office. A separate Confirmation Registration is needed.
* Parent meetings for these sacraments will be held to give you more information.
* If your child is in need of these sacraments out of these scheduled preparation years, we have options. One of those is a special RCIA adapted for children class. Please let us know if your is in need.

**Volunteers**

Children’s Faith Formation couldn’t run without the countless hours of time, devotion, talent, and love that our volunteers pour into our programs. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you have time to teach, if you have a talent you’d like to share, or if you feel the Holy Spirit is tugging on your heart, we’d love to talk to you! To volunteer as an adult catechist, adult catechist aide, teen aide, or to help in the Children’s Faith Formation program, please contact Charity Firestone.

***CCC 2252***

*Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children.*

If you have questions, please contact:

Charity Firestone Marie Thompson

Parish Catechetical Leader Assistant Parish Catechetical Leader

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509-389-0399 (cell) 334-277-1989 (office) 904-480-7643(cell)

***The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine up on you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:24-26)***