

FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK



2018-2019

Church of Saint Joseph
12 West Minnesota Street
Saint Joseph, Minnesota 56374

Prayer to Saint Joseph Protector of the Church

Blessed Saint Joseph,
we ask you to pray for us.
Through the love you had for Mary
and by the love you expressed to Jesus,
we humbly ask you
to help us in all our needs.

Watchful guardian of the holy family,
defend us from sin,
shield us from harm,
and protect us from evil.



Through your prayers
and examples,
guide us to live a holy
life and
obtain eternal
happiness in heaven.
Amen.

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 year of faith formation. This year, the National Catechetical Theme established by the National Council of Catholic Bishops is:

“ENLISTING WITNESSES FOR JESUS CHRIST”

As a parish family we are called to live our faith through WORD, WORSHIP and SERVICE. Our baptismal calling is a commitment to know our faith (WORD) grow in our faith (WORSHIP) and go in faith (SERVICE).

We continue our commitment to ongoing faith formation. Our daily lives find us trying to keep up with school schedules, sports schedules, family time and the many expected and unexpected happenings of each day. It may become increasingly difficult to take time for prayer, meditation, scripture reflection and participation at the weekend Masses and Holy Days of Obligation. By not doing so, we sell ourselves and our families short as well as our faith and local communities.

Our relationship, with God and others is essential for our happiness on this earth and for eternal happiness. When all is said and done it is about our relationship with God and with each other.

As a faith formation team, we do not take the planning and preparation for quality faith formation lightly. The parish faith formation process is here to help you, as parents, in your primary role and responsibility to keep the promise made at your child's baptism, helping your child to know faith, grow in faith and to go in faith, living the gospel message in a church and world that desperately needs authentic discipleship.

The 2018-2019 church year in our parish will be unusual of sorts because of the parish capital campaign and church renovation. An added feature this year will be that of family catechesis. In addition to classroom catechesis for the children we are also offering an opportunity for family and parent catechesis. The family and parent components will be held at the same time and same scheduled Sundays as the classroom catechesis. It is our hope that many will participate in this opportunity. More details will be given at the first gathering for parents and students in grades 1-10 on Sunday, September 23rd beginning with the 10:00 am Mass and for the first gathering of the Confirmation parents, sponsors and candidates on Sunday October 28th beginning at 6:00 pm.

We will continue to do everything we can to support you in your and your child's faith development. May this year of faith formation be a wonderful experience.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who support and encourage faith formation as a way of life. We are very grateful to the catechetical team who so generously and unassumingly dedicate their time and talent to faith formation at Saint Joseph.

Gratefully,
Director of Faith Formation
Marian Bach
Administrative Assistant
Mary Lohaus



Let the Church always be a place of MERCY, and HOPE, where EVERYONE is welcomed, LOVED and FORGIVEN.

Pope Francis

Parish Mission Statement

We, the Church of Saint Joseph, are a Catholic, Benedictine faith community. Through our liturgy and faith formation, we build on a solid foundation as active witnesses of Christ, and we eagerly respond to the needs of the Parish and the global community.



Thank you to the many volunteer catechists, catechist assistants, support team, parents, grandparents and parishioners who support faith formation for all ages.

The Church Year

Advent Sundays--December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2018
Christmas Eve Monday, December 24, 2018
Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25, 2018

Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019
Sundays in Lent March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 2019

Holy Week

Palm Sunday- April 14, 2019
Holy Thursday- April 18, 2019
Good Friday- April 19, 2019
Holy Saturday- April 20, 2019
Easter Sunday- April 21, 2019



Church Feasts-Holy Days of Obligation

January 1: Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
Forty days after Easter: Feast of the Ascension of Jesus
August 15: Feast of Mary's Assumption
November 1: Feast of All Saints
December 8: Feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception
December 25: Feast of the Birth of Jesus
Weekly Mass on Saturdays/Sundays throughout the year.

Months of the Year

September: Month of Our Lady of Sorrows
October: Month of the Holy Rosary
November: Month of All Souls
December: Month of the Divine Infancy
January: Month of the Holy Name of Jesus
February: Month of the Passion of Our Lord
March: Month of Saint Joseph
April: Month of the Holy Eucharist
May: Month of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation includes a threefold ministry:

**MINISTRY of the WORD,
MINISTRY of WORSHIP, and a
MINISTRY of SERVICE.**

We are all called to *know our faith, grow in faith and go in faith*, as it is noted in the curriculum we use here at Saint Joseph. The four pillars of our faith are at the center of all of our learning. The four pillars of our Catholic faith are:

**Creed
Sacraments
Commandments
Prayer**

With the gift of faith given to us, we also have been given a great responsibility. Each one is called to bring our faith to life by living the gospel message of Jesus in service to others.

FAITH FORMATION OVERVIEW GRADES PRE-K through GRADE 11

Liturgy of the Word for Children (LOW)

The celebration of the Mass is at the heart of our Catholic faith. Children in Pre-K and K will be dismissed during the scheduled LOW at the 10:00 am Mass between the conclusion of the opening prayer and the beginning of the first reading. The children are led and guided as they focus on the readings specific to their age level. They return to Mass at the time of the presentation of the gifts to continue participation of Mass with their families.

Grade One

First grade children learn that God is our Creator who loves us unconditionally. They learn that Jesus came to save us through his life, death, and resurrection. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit forms the community of the Church. Just as we belong to our families, it is through Baptism that we become members and belong to God's Family, the Church.

Grade Two

In second grade, the children learn that we are called to respond to God's love for us by loving and caring for others. Immediate preparations are made for reception of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Grade Three

Third grade children learn that all of God's creation is good and that we are called to live in community. Focus is on what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus and on how each of the sacraments deepens our relationship with God. Faith, hope and love are the foundations for the moral choices we make throughout our lives.

Grade Four

Fourth grade students are given an understanding of The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes and how to apply these to their everyday lives. Special attention is given to the Sacraments of Healing and Service as part of the moral dimension of our faith.

Grade Five

Fifth grade students focus on the sacramental life of the Church. As baptized Catholics, we enter into a new way of life when we celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation. Through the sacraments we live more fully in the life of the Church.

Faith Formation Calendar Overview

Church of Saint Joseph, St. Joseph, Minnesota

Liturgy of the Word for Children (Pre-K/K)

Sundays (10:00 am Mass)

September 23	November 18	January 20	March 10
October 7	November 25	January 27	March 17
October 14	December 2	February 10	March 24
October 28	December 9	February 17	March 31
November 4	January 6	February 24	April 7
November 11	January 13	March 3	April 14

Grades 1-10

Sundays—10:00-12:30 pm (unless otherwise noted)

September 9	Faith Formation Mass at 10:00, followed by meal and faith formation team workshops:
September 23	Family Catechesis for Parents and Children
October 27-28 (Sat/Sun)	30 th Annual Diocesan Senior High Gathering and 1 st Senior High Youth Conference
October 28	Family Catechesis for Parents and Children
November 18	Service Day-Thanksgiving Community Meal (grades 9-10-11 only)
December 16	Family Catechesis for Parents and Children
January 13	Family Catechesis for Parents and Children
January 27	20 th Annual Junior High Youth Rally
February 9 (Saturday)	Sacrament Preparation Parent/Child Meeting- 10:00-12:00 pm (grade 2 only)
February 24	Family Catechesis for Parents and Children
March 22 (Friday)	The Living Stations- 7:00 pm
March 24	Family Catechesis for Parents and Children
March 30 (Saturday)	Sacrament of First Reconciliation-10:00 am (grade 2 families)
March 31	Family Catechesis for Parents and Children
April 27	Faith Formation Team Appreciation and Perfect Attendance Awards First Communion Retreat and Practice (grade 2 children: 10:00-11:15/parents and children: practice: 11:15-12:30)
April 28	First Communion Mass: 2:00 pm
May 26	Living Rosary and May Crowning- 7:00 pm

Confirmation Candidates--Grade 11

Sundays—6:00-8:30 pm

(6:00 pm Mass at Sacred Heart Monastery followed by sessions until 8:30 pm at Heritage Hall, unless otherwise noted)

October 28	Confirmation Session for Candidates, Parents and Sponsors
November 18	Service Day-Thanksgiving Community Meal (grades 9-10-11 only) (Sign-Up for Shifts)
December 9	Confirmation Session for Candidates
January 13	Confirmation Session for Candidates
February 10	Confirmation Session for Candidates
March 22 (Friday)	Practice for the Living Stations and the Living Stations: Practice- 4:00 pm/Living Stations- 7:00 pm
March 24	Confirmation Session for Candidates
April 28	Rite of Blessing for the Confirmation Candidates- 10:00 am Mass at the Church of Saint Joseph.
May 5	Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Mary- 2:00 pm.
May 26	Living Rosary and May Crowning after the 10:00 am Mass

Castaway Retreat Weekend: March 29th-31st or April 5th-7th, 2019 (for grades 9-12)

Baccalaureate Mass and Brunch for High School Seniors: Sunday, May 19, 2019

Additional Mass times and events and changes to the calendars will be shared via announcements, the parish bulletin, parish website and parish emails.

Everyone of us needs half an hour of prayer
each day, except when we are busy. . .
then we need an hour. Saint Francis de Sales

God of our Journey

You who made the mountains, deserts and smooth paths, the valleys and plains, help us to realize that on life's journey we have and will encounter many sunrises, sunsets, road blocks and bridges.

At times the wind will take us to places and sometimes the wind will not always be at our backs nor will the path be always smooth.

Give us the wisdom to understand what is really important.

Give us the courage to travel new paths.
Grace us with the ability to see obstacles as opportunities for growth rather than causes for complaint.



Gentle and loving God, as you guide and direct us in the coming months, help us to discern, to know where you wish us to go, where you wish to lead us.

We stand on holy ground. Enlighten us as we seek to stand on the same ground that Jesus, our Savior stood; to walk the same paths that he walked. We know that you journey with us every day.

God of the journey, help us to make the most of what we will encounter on our journey to you.

AMEN.

Grade Six

Sixth grade students focus on the history of salvation from the story of creation through the Old Testament, to its fulfillment in Jesus. Important themes of Catholic Social Teaching call us to holiness, to care for the earth and to act in the ways of justice.

Grade Seven

Seventh grade students take a closer look at each of the four Synoptic Gospels, while focusing on the overarching themes of God, Jesus, Church, Sacraments and Morality.

Grade Eight

Grade eight students are invited to enter into a deeper relationship with God and their faith in and through Jesus. The students focus on following Jesus and what it means to follow Jesus in their daily lives.

Grade Nine—Confirmation Track I

Ninth grade students will study the Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments in depth. Focus will be on the gift of Faith, the Trinity, the message and mission of Jesus and the mission of the Catholic Church in today's world.

Grade Ten—Confirmation Track II

Tenth grade students will study the meaning of Christian Morality and Christian Prayer. Focus will include social justice, moral truth, honoring God and all human life and what it means to live a moral life. Students in grade ten will also study and experience the forms of prayer and the importance of prayer in our daily lives. Tenth grade students are at the threshold of immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which takes place in eleventh grade.

Grade 11-Sacrament of Confirmation-Track III

By their junior year in high school, students are expected to have a solid understanding and knowledge of the Catholic faith. This year focuses on the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Importance is given to meaning of this sacrament, the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit and the living of one's faith in community as active disciples of Jesus.

Faith Formation Curriculum-2017-2018	
Liturgy of the Word for Children-Pre-K/K/K	<i>Celebrating the Lectionary for Pre-K/K (Liturgy Training Publications) and Children's Worship Bulletins.</i>
Grades 1-8 Parents and Students	<i>Finding God (Loyola Press) Family Catechesis</i>
Sacrament Preparation Communion/Reconciliation-Grade Two	<i>God's Gift: Reconciliation (Loyola Press) God's Gift: Eucharist (Loyola Press)</i>
Grades 9 Confirmation-Track I	<i>Handbook for Today's Catholic Teen and Activity Book and Journey of Faith for Teens (Liguori Publications)</i>
Grade 10 Confirmation-Track II	<i>Journey of Faith for Teens-Liguori Publications and Living the Sacraments (Loyola Press)</i>
Grade 11 Confirmation-Track III Sacrament of Confirmation	<i>"Chosen": Ascension Press Diocese of Saint Cloud-Confirmation Directives Well Built Faith (Loyola Press) Additional Curriculum for those not registered in faith formation in grades 9 and/or 10 will be: Called to be Catholic (Loyola Press) and Knowing Our Catholic Faith (Loyola Press)</i>

Vacation Bible School

Each summer VBS takes place in partnership with Resurrection Lutheran and Gateway churches. Children ages 4 through grade 6 are invited to participate. Junior and adult helpers are invited to assist with VBS.

Adult Faith Formation

Faith Formation is a life-long process. Faith formation opportunities for adults are offered. Bible Study, an Adult Enrichment series and the Family Catechesis components

- **Possession of weapons** as defined by the Minnesota State Crime Bill 1995 Section 10 (127-282 ff) will be enforced with appropriate action taken according to the Minnesota State laws. Items considered to be a fire hazard are prohibited.
- **Possession of drugs and/or alcohol** is not allowed and any violations will be handled according to public and parish policies.
- **Notice of cancellation** of events due to inclement weather will be aired over radio stations: WJON, KCLD-Spirit 93. For any **updates or changes** regarding events, information etc. please refer to the parish website, parish bulletin, weekend Mass announcements or by calling the faith formation office.



Faith Formation is more than a subject to be taught—it is an invitation to a way of life.

Joe Paprocki

- If, for any reason, we need to contact you before a class is finished, the parents/guardians listed on the registration form will be contacted. If a parent or guardian cannot be reached, the **emergency contact** person noted on the same form will be called.
- Faith Formation **calendars and information** are handed out in the fall and can also be found on the parish website.
- **Full participation** in class is expected as is any follow-up outside of class. Parent participation is essential and the family catechesis component is the responsibility of the parents/guardians.
- Each person has the right to be treated with **respect and dignity**. Bullying and/or sexual harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. The diocesan safe environment program is implemented at Saint Joseph. Training and background checks are in place for all staff and volunteers.
- **Good stewardship** includes respect of property. Each student is expected to take good care of his/her textbook, bringing the textbook to each class. Respect and care of all resources and space is required.
- Cell phones and all other **electronic devices** may not be used during class time or in church.
- **No gum chewing and no food or beverages** during church and class times. Any refreshments or treats will be determined by the director. This is important because of life threatening allergies.

are opportunities, in addition to the faith-filled gatherings and social events held throughout the year for all parishioners.

Youth Ministry

Ministry to youth is given special attention, using an intergenerational and inclusive parish approach. Some of the opportunities offered are youth prayer experiences, social events and retreats integrating youth within the parish community as well as participation in the diocesan junior and senior high youth rallies and the annual diocesan Castaway retreat weekend.

The Sacraments

The Seven Sacraments are at the heart of our Catholic Faith.

Baptism

Baptism classes are typically held the first Monday of each month beginning at 6:00 pm. The date of Baptism is scheduled upon completion of the class by calling the parish office to register at 320-363-7505 ext. 100.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Immediate preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion) takes place in the second grade. This time of preparation includes the regular faith formation class times and additional parent and child participation. These Sacraments are celebrated for the first time in second grade. Parents (Guardians) of children who are beyond second grade and have not received the sacraments of initiation, are encouraged and invited to contact the Faith Formation Office.

Confirmation

The Church of Saint Joseph has implemented the Diocesan Guidelines for Confirmation. The elements to the immediate preparation for Confirmation include: reflective dialogue, sponsoring process, retreat, and liturgical celebrations. Liturgy and worship, parish and community service are all marks of true discipleship. Attendance and participation are required. Active discipleship flows from an authentic faith commitment.

After attending faith formation sessions in all of the previous grades parish students in grade eleven begin immediate preparations and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation as eleventh graders. Focused preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation includes Tracks I (grade 9), II (grade 10), and III (grade 11). Parish students attending Cathedral High School or Saint John's Prep join the immediate preparation for the sacrament their junior year.

Vocations

Lay ministry is essential within church. There are many opportunities to serve others. A list of ministries can be found in the entrance of church as well as on the website and parish bulletin. Young men called to the priesthood are invited to contact the pastor for information regarding the process for discernment to the priesthood. Likewise, young women who are sensing a call to religious life are invited to contact the Director of Faith Formation.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA process is for those seeking full membership into the Catholic Church. RCIA is guided by the process found in the early Church. Catechumens and/or candidates are led through the faith journey, along with sponsors and parish guides. Those seeking full communion in the Catholic Church are invited to contact the Director of Faith Formation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The Faith Formation **Registration Form** needs to be filled out, honoring the registration deadline. **Tuition** information is noted on the registration form.
- **Attendance** at Holy Mass and at parish events is very important to create and promote a sense of belonging and identity with the entire parish community. Perfect class **attendance** is expected. If your child needs to be absent due to illness or for a very important reason, please call the faith formation office to validate that your child will not be in attendance or will be tardy. In preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, children must be registered and attending faith formation sessions. It is not acceptable that a child be registered for the first time only during the year in which the sacraments are received.
- Home Study is discouraged for all grade levels and is definitely not an option for grades 2, 9, 10, 11. If there is a family need for home study for grades other than these, discussion with the Director of Faith Formation is required.
- Classes need to **begin on time** since the time for class is limited. Classes will **end on time** as well.
- **Safety** is of utmost importance. Careful consideration and patience are needed in the parking lot at all times. Please drive slowly and carefully when arriving and departing the parish property. Do not block the entry way into the parking lot.