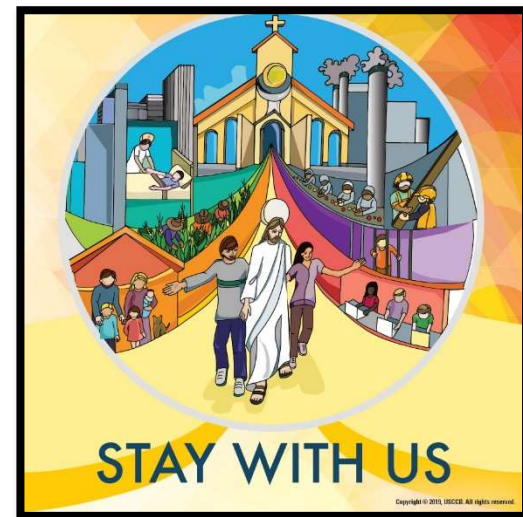


FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK



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

2019-2020

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 year of faith formation. This year, the National Catechetical Theme established by the National Council of Catholic Bishops is:

“STAY WITH US.”

As a parish family, we now rejoice within our newly renovated worship space; our church. Our parish is blessed with the goodness and generosity of our parishioners. Our church interior speaks of a community of faith dedicated to passing on the faith to future generations. Our constant prayer is that our relationship with God and each other is renewed within the sacred spaces of our hearts. We are surrounded by God’s constant and loving presence.

What Does the Word “Catechetical” Mean?

The word might be more familiar than you think. Many Catholics have used the word “catechism” for many years, and they know it has something to do with the compendium of the Church’s teachings. The root word, “catechesis,” is from a Greek word meaning “to echo”, or “resound.” Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church’s teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. We commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation. (from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops USCCB)

Prayer to Saint Joseph Protector of the Church and Our Parish Patron Saint

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

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.

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

Joe Paprocki

The parish of Saint Joseph offers, you as, parents and guardians the opportunity to assist you with the commitment you made when your child was baptized. The curriculum we have designed invites onsite learning and faith experiences as well as family catechesis.

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 as faith-filled disciples of Christ.

**Sincerely,
Marian Bach
Director of Faith Formation**

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation includes a threefold ministry:

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

The four pillars of our faith are at the center of all our learning. The four pillars of our Catholic faith are:

**Creed
Sacraments
Commandments
Prayer**

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

The Church Year

Advent Sundays--December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2019

Christmas Eve—Monday, December 24, 2019

Christmas Day—Tuesday, December 25, 2019

Ash Wednesday—February 26, 2020

Sundays in Lent—March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2020

Holy Week

Palm Sunday—April 5, 2020

Holy Thursday—April 9, 2020

Good Friday—April 10, 2020

Holy Saturday—April 11, 2020

Easter Sunday—April 12, 2020

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

February 9:	Liturgical Ministries Session
February 23:	Retreat
March 22:	Liturgical Ministries Session
March 27:	Living Stations
March 29:	Rite of Blessing/Sending and Session
TBA:	Sacrament of Confirmation

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



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.

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.

First Reconciliation/First Communion

Parent-Child Preparation Meeting

Saturday, February 22, 2020: 10:00-12:00 pm

Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Saturday, March 28, 2020

First Communion Retreat/Practice

Saturday, April 18, 2020

Children: 10:00-11:15

Parents and Children: 11:15-12:30 pm

First Communion

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Mass—2:00 pm

Confirmation Candidates--Grade 11

Sundays—Mass: 10:00 am and Sessions

6:30-8:30 pm, with the exception, of the retreat day and the living stations.

October 13: Session/Orientation

November 10: Session

November 24: Liturgical Ministries

Parish Service Day

December 8: Liturgical Ministries

Session

January 12: Liturgical Ministries

Session

January 26: Session

Faith Formation Calendars

Church of Saint Joseph, St. Joseph, Minnesota

Catechetical Sunday/Faith Formation Commissioning and Team Training Workshops

Sunday, September 22, 2019

10:00 am Mass followed by training workshops

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

Sundays (10:00 am Mass)

October 27	January 12	March 1	May 3
November 3	January 19	March 22	May 10
November 10	January 26	March 29	
November 24	February 9	April 5	
December 1	February 16	April 19	
December 8	February 23		
December 15			

Grades 1-10

Sundays—10:00-12:30 pm

On-Site Sessions

September 29	January 12
October 13	February 9
October 27	February 23
November 10	March 22
November 17	March 29
December 8	

Family Catechesis-Interactive Session Reviews take place in between the onsite sessions.

Faith Formation Curriculum--2019-2020	
Liturgy of the Word for Children-Pre-K/K	<i>Celebrating the Lectionary for Pre-K/K</i> (Liturgy Training Publications) and <i>Children's Worship Bulletins</i> .
Grades 1-8 Parents and Students	<i>Finding God</i> (Loyola Press) <i>Family Catechesis</i>
Sacrament Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist	<i>Additional Resources will be used for the immediate preparation of these two sacraments.</i>
Grades 9 Confirmation-Track I	<i>Handbook for Today's Catholic Teen and Activity Book and Journey of Faith for Teens</i> (Liguori Publications)
Grade 10 Confirmation-Track II	<i>Journey of Faith for Teens</i> -Liguori Publications and <i>Living the Sacraments</i> (Loyola Press)
Grade 11 Confirmation-Track III Sacrament of Confirmation	<i>"Chosen"</i> : Ascension Press <i>Diocese of Saint Cloud-Confirmation Directives</i> <i>Well Built Faith</i> (Loyola Press)

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

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.

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 of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination and Anointing of the Sick 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.



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.

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.
- **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:** 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.

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 for immediate preparation include: reflective dialogue, sponsor-candidate 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 each of the previous grades, parish students in grade eleven begin immediate preparations and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in their junior year. 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 in 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.



GENERAL INFORMATION for Grades 1-11

- 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.
- Full participation during sessions is expected as well as implementation outside of the onsite sessions. Assigned family catechesis grades 1-10 are built into the curriculum. For grades 1-8, the interactive reviews are sent to the Director of Faith Formation upon completion in addition to attending the scheduled onsite sessions. All grades 1-11 are required to attend the onsite sessions. Classes will begin and end on time.
- **Safety** is of utmost importance. Careful consideration and patience is 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.
- 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 are located at the end of this handbook**. Detailed information is handed out in the fall and can also be found on the parish website. You are responsible to keep informed via the parish bulletin, website, emails and the added means of communication.
- Each person has the right to be treated with **respect** and **dignity**. Bullying and/or sexual harassment of