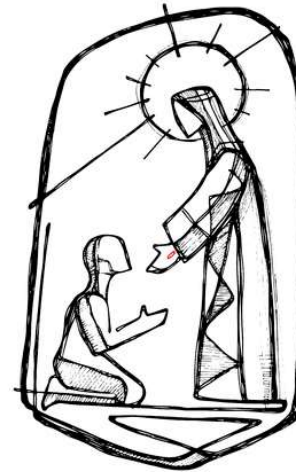


FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK 2021-2022



“Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed.”

National Catechetical Theme for 2021-2022

Church of Saint Joseph

12 West Minnesota Street
Saint Joseph, Minnesota 56374

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.



Prayer to Saint Joseph

**Protector of the Church
and our parish patron saint and the Year of
Saint Joseph as proclaimed by Pope Francis.**

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 2021-2022 year of faith formation. This year, the National Catechetical Theme established by the National Council of Catholic Bishops is:

“Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed.”

This past year has proven to be a year like no other. The challenges we all faced because of the world-wide pandemic became very real and at times overwhelming. Now it is time for healing from the very real effects of the past year.

The curriculum we implemented in recent years placed emphasis on catechesis in the home as well as within the parish setting. It was an advantage having that format in place long before the pandemic making the total shift to “at home” this past year somewhat familiar.

For the 2021-2022 year, it is my hope to return to some sort of “normalcy.” We will implement the onsite sessions on average twice a month, with the other two weekends being family catechesis at home with the interactive reviews (grades 1-8) sent in for the sessions done at home. Grades 9-10-11 will also meet on average twice a month, with accountability as well for the times not onsite.

May our efforts to provide many opportunities for all to know faith, grow in faith and go in faith prove to be a loving example of living the gospel message.

We look forward to gathering once again as a parish family.
God bless you and our year of faith formation.

**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 10:30am 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.

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
Mass on Saturdays/Sundays throughout the year.	

Months of the Year

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 Resurrection
May:	Month of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth
June:	Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
July:	Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus
August:	Month of the Assumption of Mary
September:	Month of Our Lady of Sorrows and the Holy Cross
October:	Month of the Holy Rosary
November:	Month of All Souls
December:	Month of the Coming of Jesus

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 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.

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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Faith Formation registration forms, information, and calendars are sent out in August and can also be found on the parish website. Please stay informed via the parish website, bulletin, and emails.

Completed forms are then sent to the faith formation office by the noted due date. Tuition information is noted on the registration form.

Keeping “holy the Sabbath” by attending Holy Mass is important to our Catholic faith. Participation within the faith community gives us a sense of belonging and identity with the entire parish community. Attendance and participation are essential.

Respect for each person is non-negotiable. All are to be welcomed and treated with kindness. Respect toward the faith formation team is also non-negotiable. A positive attitude and good behavior are expected and self-understood.

Contact Information

Director of Faith Formation

Marian Bach

ffdirector@churchstjoseph.org

320-363-7505 ext. 152

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 discipleship. 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 parish's immediate preparation for the sacrament in their junior year.

Vocations

There are many opportunities to serve others. Each of us is called to a life of service. Lay ministry includes various ministries in the church as well as service to the local and wider communities. A list of parish 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 for information about the various religious communities.



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 the 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 Summary—2021-2022	
Liturgy of the Word 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	<i>Finding God</i> (Loyola Press)
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-Liguori Publications and Living the Sacraments</i> (Loyola Press)
Grade 11 Confirmation-Track III Sacrament of Confirmation	<i>"Chosen": Ascension Press</i> <i>Diocese of Saint Cloud-Confirmation Directives</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, faith-filled gatherings and social events are planned 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 implemented, using an intergenerational and inclusive parish approach. Some of the opportunities offered are youth prayer experiences, social events, and retreats. The goal of ministry to youth is an increased awareness and sense of belonging to the parish community in real and tangible ways.

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 preparation sessions are typically held the first Monday of each month beginning at 5:00 pm. Baptism weekend is usually held the second week of each month during Mass or individually scheduled if outside of Mass upon completion of the preparation session. Contact the faith formation office for more information.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Immediate preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Communion) usually takes place in the second grade. This time of preparation includes the regular faith formation class times and additional parent and child participation times. 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.