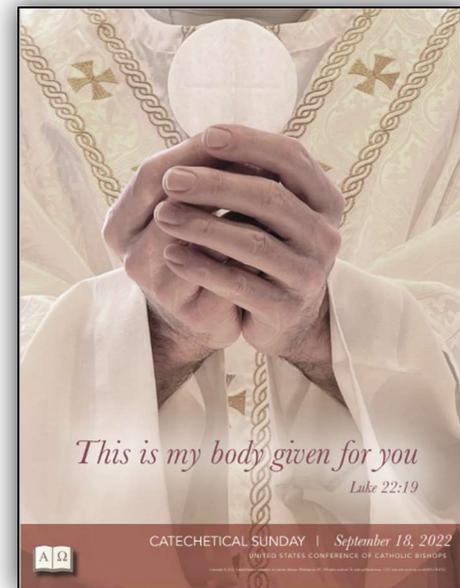


FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK 2022-2023



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

MESSAGE from MARIAN

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 year of faith formation. This year, the National Catechetical Theme established by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops is:

“This is My Body Given for You.”

Luke 22:19

With joy, I write this message because it is so fitting that the NCCB chose this year’s catechetical theme focused on the Eucharist. We know

the Eucharist is the source and summit our Catholic faith. The term “Eucharist” originates from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving. In the celebration of the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of the priest. The whole Christ is truly present -- body, blood, soul, and divinity -- under the appearances of bread and wine, the glorified Christ who rose from the dead.

This is what the Church means when she speaks of the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist.

The Church needs healing, and the world needs a revitalized Church that finds strength in the Eucharist and within the people of faith gathered around the altar. Thus, Pope Francis has called into place a Eucharistic Revival that began on the Feast of *Corpus Christi* which was June 19, 2022 and will continue to Pentecost Sunday of 2025.



Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta reminds us

“Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to Adoration.”

May the transforming power and mercy of Jesus in the Eucharist draw us to the Eucharistic Table where we gather as a faith

community. Worshipping together and in person is so vital to our personal faith journeys and to our faith community.

It is my prayer and my hope that all will return to weekend Masses, with a renewed effort and longing and will attend faith formation sessions in person to know our faith, grow in faith and go in faith with hearts afire for God, each other, and our beloved Church.

It is with great joy that I welcome Colette Harrold as our part-time Youth Life Coordinator. Colette will attend to and assist with faith formation for grades 9-10-11 and will implement youth opportunities and events. Welcome Colette!

God bless you and our year of faith formation. May we be filled with enthusiasm and a sense of belonging to a community of faith, hope, love.

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

MESSAGE from COLETTE

Dear Families,

I am so excited to begin serving you as Youth Life Coordinator this year! I look forward to getting to know you and becoming part of your community at the Church of Saint Joseph. I am especially excited to minister to high school and middle school students, and hope that together we can provide many exciting opportunities for young people to encounter Christ.

When I read this year's catechetical theme, it strikes me how personal God is. "This is **My** Body, given for **you**" (Luke 22:19). Jesus wants to be close to **you**. It is my prayer that in the year ahead we can ponder God's nearness to us. May we come to know God close to us in the Sacraments, the everyday events of our lives, and in one

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

another. We place so many obstacles in our hearts when we believe the lie that God is distant and impersonal. God is radically close, especially in the Eucharist. I pray that each of us will know the peace that comes from being united with Christ this year.

New and exciting things lie ahead! May the Holy Spirit guide us to a deeper knowledge of and love for God, and set us on fire to live holy, purposeful lives.

With Joy,
Colette Harrold
Youth Life Coordinator

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 are dismissed during the scheduled LOW dates during the 10:30am Mass before the first Scripture reading when they focus on the Scripture readings according 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

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

GRACIOUS GOD,

Thank you for the gift of today.

Refresh me, invite me, to discover your presence in each person that I meet, and every event encountered.

Teach me when to speak and when to listen, when to ponder and when to share. In moments of challenge and decision attune my heart to the whisperings of your wisdom.

As I undertake ordinary and unnoticed tasks, gift me with simple joy. When the day goes well, may I rejoice!



When it grows difficult surprise me with new possibilities.

When life is overwhelming call me to Sabbath moments to restore your peace and harmony.

May my living today reveal your goodness.
Amen.

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.

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

deemed necessary parents/guardians will be notified. Safety is of utmost importance and will be followed accordingly. Weapons are banned from church property. Safe Environment training is mandatory for the catechetical team as well as background checks.

Contact Information

Director of Faith Formation

Marian Bach

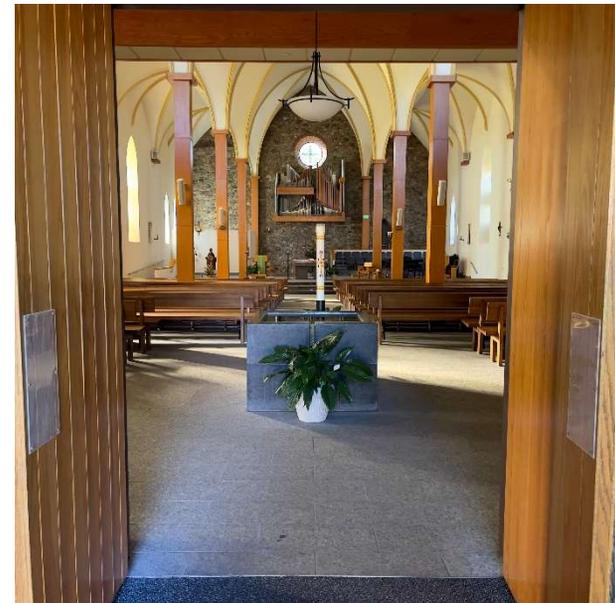
ffdirector@churchstjoseph.org

320-363-7505 ext. 152

Youth Life Coordinator

Colette Harrold

youthlife@churchstjoseph.org



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.

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.

Attendance and active participation in the faith formation sessions are essential. It is not possible for reception of the sacraments without knowledge of their purpose, meaning and sacredness in our lives.

Respect for each person is non-negotiable. All are to be welcomed and treated with kindness.

Respect toward the faith formation team and each child will be the norm. A positive attitude and good behavior are expected and self-understood. If



the living of one's faith in community as active disciples of Jesus.

Faith Formation Curriculum Summary—2022-2023

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 for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.</i>
Grades 9-10 Confirmation-Track I & II	<i>Journey of Faith for Teens</i> (Liguori Publications)
Grade 11 Confirmation-Track III Sacrament of Confirmation	" <i>Chosen</i> ": Ascension Press <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 essential, using an intergenerational and inclusive parish approach. In addition to the faith formation sessions, 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, transformative, 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 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) 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.

Confirmation

The Church of Saint Joseph has implemented the Diocesan Guidelines for Confirmation. In addition to the sessions, the components for immediate preparation include reflective dialogue, sponsor-candidate process, prayer and service retreats, 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, while continuing their faith formation within the parochial setting.

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.