

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Faith Formation

Program & Policies

2020-2021

Mission Statement

The catechetical mission of the St. John's Faith Formation Program, is to attract, engage and inspire young people to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Vision

The vision of the St. John's Faith Formation Program, together with family and parish, is to provide our students with a quality religious education within a Catholic environment. Rooted in Gospel teachings, we will enable all to grow in knowledge of the teachings of the Church, resulting in a stronger participation of parish life and external Christian witness.

Goals

1. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.
2. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
3. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

“Catholic parents must learn to form their family as a “domestic church,” a church in the home as it were, where God is honored, his law is respected, prayer is a normal event, virtue is transmitted by word and example, and everyone shares the hopes, the problems and sufferings of everyone else. All this is not to advocate a return to some outdated style of living: It is to return to the roots of human development and human happiness!” –St. John Paul II

ORGANIZATION:

- Grades K-1 are in session on Wednesday's from 6:00 p.m. until 6:50 p.m., and will not attend Mass as a class. However, families are welcome to attend Mass with their child.
 - Grades 2-6 are in session every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Grades 2-6 will attend Mass at 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday, except the 1st Wednesday of the month.
 - Grades 7-12 are in session every Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Grades 7-12 will attend Mass at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of the month.
- Please refer to the weekly bulletin or website calendar for any changes.

Children should arrive no earlier than 5:45. No one will be available to supervise your child prior to this time. Parents, please make arrangements with your child as to where you will be when picking them up after Mass/Class. This is for their safety. Parents are asked to pick up their children on time. Consistent late pick-up is unfair to the children and catechists.

SACRAMENTS: All students are expected to fulfill their obligation by attending Mass on Sundays (or Saturday evenings) and on all Holy Days of Obligation. This obligation should be fulfilled even when the family is on vacation (Mass times throughout the nation can be found at masstimes.org).

We will offer the sacrament of *Penance (Confession)* occasionally, during regular scheduled classes. However, this sacrament should be received on a regular basis, preferably monthly. Parents should make every effort to enjoy the graces of this Sacrament with their child(ren).

Children in the 2nd grade will receive the Sacraments of *Penance* and *First Holy Eucharist* provided they have been baptized and have attended two consecutive years of faith formation instruction.

We will celebrate the sacrament of *Confirmation* in high school. In preparation for Confirmation, students must attend two consecutive years of faith formation instruction.

CURRICULUM: Kindergarten thru 8th grades will be using the textbook series *Finding God* from Loyola Press. The High School textbook is *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* from St. Mary's Press. Those preparing for Confirmation will use the *Chosen* Confirmation Program from Ascension Press. All textbooks have been approved for use in the Diocese of Austin. All students should respect their books along with all church property. Students are responsible for any lost books and will be required to purchase a replacement textbook.

BEHAVIORAL POLICY: Respect in the classroom is vital. Students should respect the catechist, their fellow students, church property, and themselves at all times and without exception. Discipline problems make it difficult to teach and share the faith with students in the limited amount of time available.

- Proper behavior is expected at all times.
- Students are not allowed to bring any type of toys into the classroom.
- Cell phones are not to be used during class or during Mass.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS: Please refer to the attached "COVID-19 Protocols for In-Person Ministry at Parishes" for information on additional policies and procedures in regards to our current pandemic. In addition, please sign the attached waiver titled, "Acknowledgement related to COVID-19 Protocols for Ministry outside of Mass and other liturgies," and return to the parish office AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

ONLINE OPTION: For families who intend to catechize their child at home, student textbooks can be picked up and at-home "parent-guided" lessons can be obtained through the parish websites under the Faith Formation Tab, or from your student's catechist. Grades 9-12 will refer to their catechist for access to at-home material. A monthly assessment with the DRE or catechist is required for all families that choose this option.