

St. Gregory K – Grade 8 Faith Formation (CCD) Program Philosophy and Operating Principles

“Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children.”

(National Catechetical Directory)

This is the underlying premise to all religious education and faith formation in children. As such, ministry to children at St. Ferdinand Parish strives towards a model that embraces and supports that the primary responsibility of the faith formation of children rests with their parents.

Recognizing that the spiritual formation process of children begins at birth and that parents/guardians are given the profound privilege and serious obligation of being the child’s first and most important teachers of faith, St. Ferdinand K – Grade 8 Faith Formation places high value on the family realizing that it is the primary place where faith is learned, interpreted, and lived.

Consequently, it is the aim and goal of every member of the St. Ferdinand K – Grade 8 Faith Formation Catechetical Team (Catechetical Administrators, catechists, aides, administrative aides) to respect and support this important responsibility of parents/guardians by providing faithful and educational assistance and direction to continue the practice of the Catholic Christian way of life in the home, i.e. the domestic church, and into the world.

As support, St. Ferdinand Parish offers to parents/guardians a sound catechetical program for their children based on:

- Creed
- Worship and prayer
- Sacraments
- Moral teaching

Building on these elements, the K – Grade 8 Faith Formation Program fosters encounters with God for the children to which we minister to help them make sense of their own lived human experiences and build a trusting relationship with Christ and his Church. Therefore, St. Ferdinand K – Grade 8 Faith Formation:

- concentrates on Christ’s message
- provides experience with our Catholic community
- is rooted in Liturgical worship/Mass
- promotes service to one another as disciples of Christ

Founded on Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, this will be accomplished by providing opportunities for children to experience God’s self-revelation to them:

- as individuals
- as members of the church
- in all of creation

Parental Expectations

We look to the parents/guardians of the children in our Faith Formation Program to continue to build and foster a sound relationship between God and their children by:

- attending Mass weekly
- taking a serious interest in the faith formation of the child(ren) which goes beyond the Faith Formation Program’s classrooms
- praying with their child(ren) routinely
- completed Faith Formation exercises in the home, including encouraging child(ren) to visit the Faith Formation website at www.christinus.com
- enforcing and instilling the Christian values taught in the Faith Formation Program
- openly supporting the Faith Formation Program by having children attend regularly scheduled CCD class/events

ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attendance at Faith Formation classes is vitally important. Children have a greater understanding of the lessons and are more willing to take part in class discussions and activities if their attendance is good.

The student who is absent from class must demonstrate that the work assigned in class has been satisfactorily completed.

To make arrangements for your child to complete missed assignments, please contact the Faith Formation Office.

If a child has three or more absences, you will be contacted to see if we can help alleviate the problem.

Prolonged absences without satisfactorily completed make-up work may result in retention of grade level.

PHILOSOPHY OF DISCIPLINE

The philosophy of discipline for St. Ferdinand K – Grade 8 Faith Formation Program is modeled on the compassion of Jesus and founded on Sacred Scripture.

Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. (Matthew 7:12)

All else stems from this.

All students have a right to learn and all catechists have the right to teach. The classroom should be a place where all feel welcome, comfortable, loved, and respected. No student or adult should inhibit another from learning by causing discomfort to, disrespect for, or unloving actions towards another child or adult.

Misbehavior in class will result in the following actions:

1. The catechist will speak with the student first. Every attempt will be made to solve the problem behavior in the classroom. The teacher will speak to the Catechetical Administrator.
2. If the misbehavior continues, the student will be sent to the Faith Formation Office. The student will meet with the Catechetical Administrator. The student will write out what the misbehavior was that resulted in dismissal from the classroom. The student will also state what he/she will do to correct the behavior. The statement will be signed by the student, Catechetical Administrator, and the catechist; the statement is dated and filed. The student may or may not be sent back to class, depending on the offense. The parent will be contacted.
3. If the discipline problem continues, the student is again sent to the office. A second statement is written by the student describing the behavior. The statement is again signed by the student, Catechetical Administrator, and catechist. The parents/guardians are called. A copy of the statement is mailed home to the parents/guardians for their signature. The parents must accompany the student to the next Faith Formation session with the signed statement for admittance to class. At this time, a conference may be requested by the Catechetical Administrator, catechist, or the parents/guardians.

In agreement:

Signature of Parent/Guardian
For:

Date

Student(s) Name(s)

Grade(s)