



FAITH FORMATION

2019-2020

HANDBOOK

St. John the Evangelist - Clonmel

Welcome

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Faith Formation year!

This handbook was designed to give parents and guardians basic information about Faith Formation for grades K - 12 here at St. John the Evangelist parish. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with it, paying particular attention to the different policies and procedures included in it.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. May God bless you and your families as you strive to grow in holiness.

Cassi FitzGerald
Director of Faith Formation
(620) 545-7171
faithformation@stjohnsclonmel.org

Role of Parents

“Parents are the principal and first educators of their children” (CCC 1653). The home is where a child should first experience the Catholic faith. Parish Faith Formation aims to work in partnership with parents, in order to assist them in living out their vocation to their children. The parish Faith Formation program should complement, not replace, the catechesis that children receive in the home.

The parish Faith Formation program assists parents in their God-given role as educators of the Faith by:

- Providing the truth of the Roman Catholic Faith as handed down by Jesus Christ through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, the Magisterium, and the Church Fathers
- Providing weekly Faith Formation for children
- Providing opportunities to receive the sacrament of Confession.

It is of the utmost importance that children are given the opportunity for weekly Sunday attendance at Holy Mass and frequent participation in the Sacrament of Confession. It is difficult for children to grasp what they are being taught about the Sacraments if they do not experience the Sacramental life first hand.

Role of Young People

Youth should be punctual and prepared. They should arrive no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of each session. Youth should meet their catechists in their assigned rooms on Sunday mornings or at Mass on Wednesday Evenings.

Youth have the right to formation in an environment where others are well behaved. Similarly, catechists have the right to help form in such an environment.

Youth will not be allowed to have food or drink other than water in the classrooms. Similarly, cell phones should remain out of the classroom or be turned in to the catechist and returned at the end of the night.

Attendance

Attendance is recorded each week. We ask that you notify the parish office if your child will be absent. Regular attendance is very important. There are 28 Sunday morning sessions and 31 Wednesday evening sessions scheduled, so please make every effort to minimize absences and help your child arrive on time.

Discipline

There is a close connection between discipline and personal growth. If any disciplinary action is needed, it will be administered with Christian love.

In the event that behavior is disruptive, the catechist will:

- Not allow the disruptive situation to persist in the classroom
- Enforce assigned seating, separating misbehaving youth if necessary
- If the behavior continues the young person will be sent to the office and a parent will be notified.

Dismissal Policy

Parents and guardians of Kindergarten through Fifth Grade youth are asked to come into the parish center to pick up their children in their assigned classroom. This may be done by older siblings as well.

6th-12th grade youth will be dismissed at 8:40pm.

Families that will be sharing carpool duties are asked to inform their child's catechist ahead of time if someone other than the parent or older sibling will pick up their children.

Cancellations / Snow Days

If Clearwater Public Schools cancel school for the day, dismiss early due to inclement weather, or if county afternoon and evening activities are cancelled, the Faith Formation sessions for that day will be cancelled. If Faith Formation is cancelled for whatever reason, we will attempt to send out a phone message and email as soon as possible. When in doubt, contact the Parish office at (620) 545-7171.

Sacramental Preparation

A central aspect of the Faith Formation program is preparing children to receive the sacraments. Children are prepared for the reception of the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Copies of baptismal certificates are required before receiving these sacraments. Please provide the office with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate if you have not already. If the child was baptized here at St. John's we have that information on file and do not need a copy of the certificate.

Curriculum Overview grades K-5

Spirit of Truth (Sophia Institute for Teachers) is used for Kindergarten - Grade 5. You can find information about the series at: <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/spirit-of-truth-parish>. Additionally there is a once a month opportunity for students to spend 15 minutes in Eucharistic Adoration during Faith Formation.

Kindergarten: The Blessed Trinity and the Holy Family

Children are introduced to the loving goodness of the Blessed Trinity, they meet the members of the Holy Family, and they learn who the saints are and what they teach us. They explore why virtue is good and sin is bad, and the importance of developing good habits. Finally, they learn they can speak to God in prayer.

Prayers to be learned: Sign of the Cross, Glory Be, Our Father, Hail Mary, Angel of God, Grace Before Meals, Grace After Meals

Grade 1: God is Love

Children develop an awareness of God as our Father in Heaven, the creator of Heaven and earth, who is all good, who created them in His image and likeness, and who loves them unconditionally. Basic parts of the Mass are introduced. The reality of sin is explored in connection to the Sacrament of Confession. Continuing to learn from the lives of the saints, they also explore the basics of prayer as a conversation with God.

Prayers to be learned: Act of Contrition, Morning Offering

Grade 2: Our Life in Jesus

This year focuses on how much children are loved by Jesus Christ, and how his death and Resurrection have opened the way to heaven. Students continue to learn about the parts of the Mass, the lives and lessons of the saints, and more ways to pray. Special focus is placed on the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist.

Prayers to be learned: Apostles Creed, Hail Holy Queen, Rosary

Grade 3: The Kingdom of God and the Church

Children learn what the Catholic Church is, who the Holy Spirit is and how He guides the Church, and what it means that Jesus continues His mission through the life of the Church. Along with the basics of the Trinity and seven Sacraments, they build on what they've learned about prayer, and explore what it means to live as children of God. This year focuses on Jesus's Parables of the Kingdom, and Mary as the Mother of the Church.

Prayers to be learned: Fatima Prayer, Stations of the Cross, Memorare

Grade 4: Jesus Teaches Us How to Live

Most of this year focuses on the moral life, with children exploring more deeply what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God, and how they should respond to God's grace in order to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. Explored are conscience formation, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and Jesus's Great Commandment to love God with all our heart and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The reality of sin and the necessity of virtue are emphasized.

Prayers to be learned: Act of Faith, Act of Hope, Act of Love, Queen of Heaven (Regina Coeli), Glorious Mysteries, Joyful Mysteries, Sorrowful Mysteries, Luminous Mysteries

Grade 5: The Sacraments

This year provides an in-depth exploration of God's grace in the Sacraments, with a focus on what a Sacrament is and why Jesus instituted them. Students explore what it means that God is the source of all life, learn more about Holy Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, and read and discuss longer biographies of the saints, especially young saints.

Prayers to be learned: Come Holy Spirit, Angelus, Nicene Creed, St. Michael the Archangel, Magnificat

Curriculum Overview grades 6-12

Starting Fall 2019 we will begin implementing a new Curriculum Guide for grades 6 - 12 in semester format. This year we begin the transition to a lowered Confirmation age per Bishop Kemme's change for the entire Diocese of Wichita. The goal is to be confirming all 6th & 7th grade youth, but we will be in a time of transition for the next few years as we work our way to that. The following curriculum will not be realized in its fullest potential until Fall 2022 as Confirmation grades fluctuate but will be the goal we are striving for:

Grades 6 & 7: Fall Confirmation, Spring Confirmation, Mass, Mary & the Saints

Grade 8: Old Testament, Theology of the Body for Middle Schoolers

Grades 9 & 10: Church History, Social Justice, Supernaturals, New Testament

Grades 11 & 12: Apologetics, Prayer & Discipleship, Faith & Reason, High School Theology of the Body

In addition to the semester curriculum, we will reinstate a monthly CYM night for additional human, spiritual, and pastoral formation opportunities for our youth in grades 6-12.

2019-2020 Curriculum for grades 6-12

Fall 2019

- The Mass (6th)
- Fall Confirmation (7th, 8th, 9th)
- Social Justice (10th)
- Apologetics (11th, 12th)

Spring 2020

- Mary & the Saints (6th)
- Spring Confirmation (7th, 8th, 9th)
- Church History (10th, 11th)
- Prayer & Discipleship (12th)

Safe Environment

The job of ensuring children's safety is a challenging undertaking, but the physical and emotional wellbeing of our youth is of the utmost importance. The prevention of child sexual abuse requires more than just adult awareness, education, and training about the nature and scope of the problem. We must also give our children the tools they need to overcome the advances of someone who intends to do them harm. The Safe Environment program is a vehicle through which educators give children and young people the tools they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them.

The curriculum is provided by the Diocese of Wichita and includes age appropriate materials and lessons. Parents are encouraged to review any of the material that will be taught in the classroom. All of the lesson plans will be made available to the parents via email during the first week of classes.

Safe Environment lessons are voluntary, and parents may opt their children out of the Save Environment session. The Safe Environment sessions do not take the entire hour and once it has been presented the lesson will return to normal curriculum programming. If you have opted your child out of the Safe Environment session you are welcome to simply not bring your child on the day of the Safe Environment lesson or they can wait with you in the Parish Center until the Safe Environment lesson has been presented and can then rejoin the rest of their grade. This decision is the parent's to make. More information will be provided about the date the Safe Environment lesson will take place once the Faith Formation year begins.