

Expectations for Completion of Faith Formation Grades 1-10:

In the best interest of our students, we created the following expectations. This is simply to ensure that students who complete any level of our program are given the best formation we can provide. **Remember that Faith Formation sessions are only a part of your child(ren)'s upbringing in our faith. Attendance at weekend Mass, prayer in the home, service to parish and community, and participation in Family Faith Night and adult faith formation are some other ways to enrich your family's faith life.**

Attendance & Participation:

We meet only a select number of times each year. For a student to truly understand the material and grow spiritually, we need them present for as many class times as possible. Frequent absences or non-completion of home lessons in one level make the subsequent levels more difficult for your daughter(s)/son(s). Therefore, the following policy is in place to ensure meaningful participation:

Grades 1-6:

Our program for 2020-2021 is a hybrid program using the *Alive in Christ* curriculum. It includes monthly Family Faith Nights in church, monthly virtual sessions, and online supported home study. **Expectations of Parents/Guardians:** At least one must attend each Family Faith Night **for the entire class session**; Attend the virtual sessions and do the home study lessons with their children; and use the online lesson resources. (We have **21 sessions:** 7 Family Faith Nights, 6 virtual class sessions, and 8 home study sessions.) Childcare is not provided for Family Faith Nights, but younger children are welcome to attend with you.

Grades 7-10:

All students are expected to miss no more than 3 sessions per year and to **be present for the entire class**. (We have **16 sessions**.)

Sacraments:

All sacraments require special preparation for the student to be fully prepared and understand what they are celebrating. Additional expectations outside of regular class times are considered essential for every student to celebrate a sacrament here at St. Vincent de Paul.

First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Program:

Parent sessions and completion of the sacrament books are required in order to properly prepare for these sacraments. (Prior Grade 1 Faith Formation is required.) Child **must be 7-years old or older** and **must be enrolled** and attend St. Vincent's Faith Formation Program (includes homeschoolers) or a Catholic School. Students should attend weekly Sunday Eucharist with their families. The Parent/Child First Communion Retreat and rehearsal are required. **Enrollment for Reconciliation is in November. Enrollment for Eucharist is in February.**

Confirmation: All students attending a Catholic High School are also required to participate in the Grade 9 and 10 Faith Formation classes. All Grade 10 Confirmation students must complete a Confirmation interview, Letter of Intent, and a Saint Report.

Retreats:

Grades 7-8: Will attend a retreat during their regular class session

Grade 9: Required to attend 2-day retreat held at St. Vincent de Paul.

Grade 10: Required to attend a weekend Confirmation retreat, which prepares them for celebrating this sacrament. A separate retreat fee will be charged.

Service Projects:

7-8th Grade: Required to complete one service project with their class that is planned and scheduled by the Faith Formation Department.

9-10th Grade: Will be completing 10 service hours on their own. Directions on this requirement will be given at the start of the Faith Formation year.

Other Information:

Where does tuition money go? It costs our parish an average of **\$509 to educate each child** in our programs. Your tuition and stewardship help provide catechist/teacher training/support/appreciation, activity materials, textbooks, DVD's, guest speakers, field trips, special programs and professional full-time and part-time staff as well as heat/air conditioning, lights, and maintenance of our buildings.

If my child attends a Catholic school, does he/she need to be enrolled in Faith Formation? If your child is enrolled in a Catholic School; he/she only needs to be enrolled in Faith Formation if they are Confirmation candidates in Grades 9 & 10, **for which full tuition is applicable. Note: Reconciliation and First Communion candidates in Grade 2 or Discover (Grades 3-6) who attend a Catholic School other than St. Vincent de Paul complete a registration form and pay a Sacraments Only fee of \$50 but need not attend Faith Formation classes at St. Vincent de Paul.**

How will I know my child is in the session requested (Gr Pre-6)? Letters will be sent to you the week prior to the start of classes. Please do not call the Parish Office because letters cannot be sent and classes cannot start until we have enough catechists/teachers. Please consider volunteering.