



**St. Joseph Faith Formation**  
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## **Welcome to St Joseph Faith Formation Program for Children & their families**

### **OUR MISSION**

The aim of faith formation is to promote communion with Jesus Christ. At St. Joseph Parish, we seek to nurture a faith that is living, conscious, and active in the light of instruction. Our goal is to offer formation to help your family live in a way that is faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the tradition of the Catholic Church. Our work involves catechetics (instruction in the faith), the celebration and appreciation for public prayer and worship (the source and summit of our faith), sacramental preparation, opportunities for service, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

*“The work of a catechist and religious educator depends on the witness of the Church for full effect. As Pope Paul VI said, “People today listen more to witnesses than they do to teachers and if they do listen to teachers it is because they are witnesses.” –Evangelii Nuntiandi*

### **THE WAY OUR PROGRAM WORKS**

We strive to provide a comprehensive faith formation program for children beginning with children in Grade 1. The children are instructed by a dedicated team of volunteer catechists who strive to be good adult role models. They provide a loving, Christian atmosphere within the classroom so that the children will be able to grow in their faith and develop a strong Catholic identity. The shared catechetical process between the catechist, church community and family is designed to accompany every child on his or her life-long faith journey for the purpose of forming faithful disciples for the Lord.

We strive to enhance faith formation by encompassing the six fundamental tasks of catechesis:

1. Promoting knowledge of the faith;
2. Liturgical education;
3. Moral formation;
4. Teaching prayer;
5. Education for community life;
6. **Create and stimulate a missionary spirit to be an active witness to the Gospel**

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

Sacrament preparation is a parish-based program. Children who are attending either a Catholic school OR the St Joseph Parish Faith Formation Program are eligible to enroll in this process of preparation.

#### **• SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST**

Children will celebrate the sacraments upon completion of 2 years of formal class instruction.

#### **• SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

Students entering Grade 6 are eligible to enroll in the 2-year Confirmation Program. Students participate in final preparation activities and celebrate Confirmation in the fall of Grade 8.

**Grades 8-12** students who have not attended regular grade level classes and would like to celebrate the initiation sacraments are welcome to enroll in the program.

### **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

It is our commitment to make our programs inclusive and accessible to children with special needs and disabilities. Parents are the most knowledgeable about their own children. Please inform us of any special needs you may have so that together and to the best of our ability, we may offer your child an enriching faith formation experience.

### **YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CATECHETICAL MINISTRY IN TEACHING THE CHILDREN!**

We have a continuous need for catechists (faith formation teachers) in order for our program to be sustained and grow. We invite and encourage parents, grandparents, and parishioners to consider joining our ministry. It is only with your help and participation that that we can accomplish the task of passing on our faith and forming disciples in mission for Jesus Christ. Catechists are responsible for planning and carrying out the designated curriculum. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining this ministry.

#### *What our catechists say...*

*“What I thought would be a giving thing, a few hours a week of my time, turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.”*

*“We plant seeds of faith in the children with God's grace. Our efforts and our prayers will bear fruit at some stage in their life. We don't always see immediate results but quite often a word, a story or even a picture triggers the children's hearts so they want to know more about the love that God has for us.”*

*“I guess that being a catechist, is like being one of God's instruments in bringing people to know and love Him. The rewards of teaching far outweigh the effort!”*