

# *Two Rivers Catholic Community*



## *Faith Formation Handbook*

## *Welcome to Faith Formation!*

At Baptism, all parents accept the responsibility of training their children in the practice of the faith. To assist you with this responsibility, Two Rivers Catholic Faith Community offers faith formation programs for families of our Parishes. We are so blessed that you have decided to allow us to be partners in teaching and share our faith with you. Your family is very important to us and we are excited to be on this faith and learning journey with you!

May God's Blessings be upon you and your family today and throughout this faith formation year!

## *To Parents:*

We as parents model our faith for our children daily. What our children will learn from Faith Formation Classes will depend on parental support and reinforcement at home, in attending Sunday Mass as a family, and in family prayer. Our interest and encouragement will show our children we value what is being done in the Faith Formation Classes. Learning prayer and the Catholic faith cannot only be done on Wednesday nights.

### **What is expected from Parents:**

1. Be a good example for our children/youth.
2. Talk about our Catholic Christian values and have Catholic Christian attitudes.
3. Provide opportunities to share in the sacraments offered.
4. Provide prayer opportunities for our children/youth.
5. Ensure the regular attendance of our children/youth at class.
6. Understand and accept the regulations set forth in the Faith Formation Handbook.
7. Attend the Children's Masses even if your child/children do not have a special part they are helping with at the Mass.

\*Before all others parents are bound to form their children by word and example in faith and in Christian living. (Canon 774 #2)\*

## *Schedule, Drop off & Pick-up Policy*

Our nightly schedule looks like this: K-5th grade will go directly to classes at 6:30pm and will have our group prayer at the end of the night. Grades 6-10 will meet for group prayer at 6:30pm and they will be released to go to EPIC or home at 7:45pm.

Please help us to maintain a safe environment. Parents of K-5th graders need to bring their child(ren) to their classroom for classes at 6:30pm and meet your child(ren) in the church at 7:30pm to join us for prayer. Parents of 6th-10th graders please join us for prayer at 6:30pm and I ask that you park either on the side of the road by the church or in the back parking lot at the end of the night. Please do not have your child(ren) run across the road to get into a vehicle.

Also, it is very important that you contact either the director or the teacher via an email or send a note if someone other than you, the parent, will be picking up your child. Please leave the name of the other person and a phone number so that if they haven't shown up within 20 minutes of classes or EPIC is let out we have a way to get a hold of them.

### Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes and 6-11th grade students are expected to also attend GIFT Nights. It is the parent's responsibility to keep this packet in a binder/folder as it has a copy of the class schedule in it. Also you can look online at [tworiverscatholic.com](http://tworiverscatholic.com) and click on the Faith Formation tab. Should an illness arise or if you know in advance that your child(ren) will be absent please let the teacher and/or the director know. This helps us to make sure all students are accounted for.

### Bad Weather Policy:

Please refer to the schedule.

### Discipline Policy:

Please refer to the Discipline Policy on the following pages.

### Christmas Programs:

The St. Wendel Christmas Pageant is held the Wednesday before Christmas. On that evening, we tell the story of Jesus' birth through narration by slowly creating a live nativity. Enjoy the story of that wonderful night combined with many cherished Christmas songs. On that night we start with the students at 6:00pm to get everyone in costume and practice the entire pageant. At 7:00pm, we open the doors for a 7:15pm pageant start time for all parents, family, friends and community to come and enjoy.

It has been a tradition at All Saints and for the past couple of years Immaculate Conception to put on the "The Story of the Star" Christmas Program and is held during the Christmas Octave. Much like St. Wendel this is the story of Jesus' Birth. We will have one practice outside of class (TBA). Doors will open at 7:00pm and the pageant will start at 7:15pm.

These both are considered class nights for all students in the program. Students who are not in the pageant will be meeting for class at 6:30. Students who are in the pageant will be practicing/getting ready for the pageant at the assigned time. More information on the pageants will be given out closer to each pageant.

## G.I.F.T. Nights:

Generations In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) Nights are for grades 6-11. **These are required class nights and attendance is taken.** At least one Parent is required to attend with your child(ren). These are wonderful opportunities to learn more about our Faith.

The first G.I.F.T. Night is always the 2nd Wednesday in September and is for all Grades K-11. This is our kick off Teaching Mass. Our closing Mass is also a GIFT Night for all Grades K-11.

If your child(ren) is/are unable to attend a G.I.F.T. Night please let Katrina know. There will be a video related to the topic which you will be asked to watch with your child(ren) and together write a summary to be handed in the following class period.

## Mass notes/Adoration:

Mass Notes and Adoration are for grades 7-10. As Catholics it is our obligation to attend Mass each weekend. By filling out mass notes your child will engage in the mass and learn to hear God's message for them. There will be 6 mass notes that will need to be taken throughout the year. These are denoted by an asterisk on the schedule. Students will need to fill out a mass notes sheet for each. If it is on a weekend they are to be turned in the following class period. If they are on a Wednesday night they will need to be turned in at the end of the mass. We will go through the readings together and fill out the first couple. After the first couple, please look up daily readings from the usccb website and fill out those parts before Mass.

Also, we will be doing adoration once a month for 15 minutes **during** prayer time. If your child is **absent** the day it is done, the next class period they will receive the assignment and **need to go to adoration outside of class for 15 minutes**. This can be at a Eucharistic Adoration or just in church in front of the tabernacle. It can also happen before or after class in the church in front of the tabernacle.

## Youth Masses:

There are 2 Youth Masses for each parish scheduled throughout the year that will involve the children/youth to help with ministry roles. This is a wonderful way for the parishioners to get to know who our young people are, for our young people to experience the different ministries throughout the church, and to share their gifts with the parish. There are sign up sheets for each youth mass. All students are expected to attend two youth masses. 6-10th graders are in charge of readings, welcome, and petitions. K-5 will be in charge of greeting, gifts, and ushering. All students who do not have a specific ministry they are doing will need to be at church a half hour before. They will be leading the rosary.

The readings are ready tonight for 6-8th graders to volunteer for. The welcome and petitions will be given to 9th-10th grade volunteers the wednesday before the youth mass.

## Reconciliation:

Reconciliation is an important and often overlooked sacrament. When we sin we hurt or break our relationship with God. By partaking in the sacrament of reconciliation we are reconciled with God and our relationship is mended with him. We will be offering reconciliation this year (dates to be determined) for all students 3-10, but please don't let this be their only experience of such a beautiful sacrament. Please know that you can always call the central office to schedule reconciliation with Fr. Gregory. I will send out information when our ACC reconciliation services are scheduled. There is one during advent and one during lent.

## 2nd Grade Sacraments:

It is important that parents help prepare their child for the Sacraments. This includes going to mass on a weekly basis. 2nd grade families will be asked to fill out **together** a modified mass notes each week.

Children will learn the importance of Reconciliation and receiving the Eucharist. They will learn the different parts of the mass as well as need to know the 10 Commandments, the Act of Contrition, and the Confiteor.

We are using the Signs of Grace Curriculum. With this curriculum there are **required** Parent Education meetings. It is important that at least one parent attends, but both parents' attendance would be wonderful. At the end of these nights you will receive important information on the upcoming retreats.

There will be 2 retreats also for your 2nd grade child. One for 1st Reconciliation and one for 1st Communion. We ask both parents to be at these with your child and these are requirements in order to receive these two very important sacraments.

## Standards:

The Diocese of St. Cloud has Faith Formation Standards for Kindergarten-8th grade and Confirmation. Attached are the standards and the prayers which are to be learned for each grade. By 9th Grade students should know all prayers and standards. We at this point teach the Theology of the Body Curriculum for 9th grade & the Chosen: This is Your Faith for 10th Grade. 11th Grade is Confirmation.

## E.P.I.C.

Every Person In Christ Program is for Grades 6-10. This is following Faith Formation Classes and is a fun way for pre-teens & teens to learn about Christ together. If you have any questions please contact our youth minister at [youthminister@tworiverscatholic.com](mailto:youthminister@tworiverscatholic.com).

### *Totus Tuus:*

**Totus Tuus**, a latin phrase meaning “totally yours,” was the motto of St. John Paul II. Taken from St. Louis de Montfort’s True Devotion to Mary, it signifies our desire to give ourselves entirely to Jesus through the hands of our Blessed Mother Mary. It also expresses our effort to give all that we have to every young person we encounter.

**Totus Tuus** is a program for youth dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. The goal of **Totus Tuus** is to help young people (grades 1st-12th) grow in their understanding of the faith and love for Jesus and His Church. More information on dates and times will follow.

### *All-Saints Matching Grant Breakfast:*

The Matching Grant Breakfast is the fundraiser that helps fund the Faith Formation Program. Students and Parents who are members of All Saints are asked to help. This Breakfast is always on Palm Sunday. Each family who is a part of the All Saints Faith Formation Program is asked to sell 2 booklets of tickets and help work at the breakfast. 2nd Grade parents you are asked to help with the serving line. Children and adults are also asked to help in the dining room. Adults are asked to help in the kitchen. There are two shifts. The Saturday before is setup day and volunteers are needed for this day also. Please mark this on your calendar.

Every year the Christian Mothers Rosary Sodality donates a quilt top and asks for help with the quilting of it. Please consider taking a day to help quilt and older students are more than welcome to come and help also. I will let you know the dates that this is going on.

### *Immaculate Conception Parish Festival:*

This is the main fundraiser for the Faith Formation Program. Students and Parents who are members of Immaculate Conception are asked to help with this. It is usually the last Sunday in June. You will be contacted by a member of the Festival committee with more information.