

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 GIFFT 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 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:

If school or afterschool activities are canceled or let out early due to bad weather, **then** we WILL NOT have Faith Formation classes. We reserve the right to make other arrangements to make up for missing work. **If** we cancel after school is let out, **then** announcements will be made on the Remind App AND via the phone numbers provided on the family registration forms.

Discipline Policy:

Our Faith Formation Program relies on and is blessed with VOLUNTEER Catechists (teachers) and other VOLUNTEERS, who through their generous gifts of time, talent, and desire to share their Catholic Faith with our youth and help to keep them safe. This is what allows our program to exist. The Catechists are under no obligation to keep a student in their classroom should the student be and continue to be disruptive, and make learning difficult for others. If your child should be sent home there will be homework that will need to be done for the next time the class meets.

Below are the expectations of all teachers, classrooms, the parish, and the grounds. If there is refusal to abide by them the child/children will be asked to leave and the director or teacher will call parents to come and get the child/children the first time. If it happens the second time the child/children will not be allowed back into the Faith Formation program this year. All discipline issues will be handled in a confidential manner.

Discipline Policy Expectations:

1. When your child is at Faith Formation they are there to learn the love of God, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit, and the Catholic Church's teachings. They need to treat others as they want to be treated.
2. When your child is at Faith Formation their attention is to be on their teacher and learning the lesson of the night. If they have an electronic device (cell phone, ipad/tablet, ipod/mp3 player, gameboy/other game system, or smart watches) or toys with them, the device/toy needs to be silenced and in a pocket or bag. If they are caught with it out during class/meditation/prayer time the teacher and/or Faith Formation Director will ask them to put it in a designated area of the room and they will get it back at the end of the night.
3. When your child is at Faith Formation it is not acceptable to swear or use the acronym O. M. G. Using God's name not in prayer, not when talking about Him, or not talking about the place hell is considered swearing.
4. Although we come to Faith Formation Classes on Wednesdays, we are here to grow our children's faith and **relationship** with God. They should be attentive during class time and praying/listening to God during meditation and prayer time.
5. When your child is at Faith Formation they should be respectful at all times and to all people. Also they need to be respectful of classrooms, the church, and the church grounds (please pick up after yourself, and please pick up trash as you see it). Non-spill water bottles may be brought. 6-10 graders need to put theirs in classrooms before prayer time at 6:30.
6. When your child is at Faith Formation they should not physically harm others, bully others, or gossip about others.
7. When your child is at Faith Formation they may not give someone "the finger," pretend to have a gun and shoot either themselves or others, or any gesture of a sexual nature. **Also weapons, cigarettes, vapes, and alcohol are not allowed on church property.**
8. When your child is at Faith Formation they should not take others' belongings without asking.
9. When your child is at Faith Formation they should not lie or tell stories that are not true.
10. When your child is at Faith Formation they need to abide by the 10 Commandments, the 2 Great Commandments, and any other expectations the teachers may set forth for their classroom.

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.

Keeping Christ in Christmas drawing contest

Every year the Knights of Columbus sponsor the Keeping Christ in Christmas drawing contest. K-1 & 3-8 students will have the opportunity to work on their drawings for a little bit each night during class. 2nd grade students will bring theirs home to work on so that they are able to get through all the materials needed for their First Reconciliation. A knight will come in and talk with children and parents about this at some point in September.

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

Generations In Family Faith Together (G.I.F.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.F.T. Night is always the Opening Mass Wednesday in September and is for all Grades K-11. This is our kick off for the year. Our closing Mass is also a GIFFT Night for all Grades K-11.

If your child(ren) is/are unable to attend a G.I.F.F.T. Night please let Katrina know. There will be an assignment related to the topic which you will be asked to do 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 6-8 mass notes that will need to be taken throughout the year. You will choose one Mass per month to fill one out for. They will be due at the end of the month, but turning them in right away will alleviate the reminders to your child as the month gets closer to the end. Adoration is encouraged for grades 7-10. We will do short periods of adoration throughout the year during class time, however it is always a good thing to introduce your child to Eucharistic Adoration as they grow older. On Mondays there is Eucharist adoration from 9am until 8pm. Come in and say, "Hi!" to Jesus.

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 is a form to sign up for which masses your family will be attending. All students are expected to attend two youth masses. 5-10th graders are in charge of readings, welcome, and petitions. K-4 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 the email address is in the bulletin.

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. (We have opened this up to all program families to help with.) 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.

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. (We have opened this up to all families in the program to help with.) It is usually the last Sunday in June. You will be contacted by a member of the Festival committee with more information.

Contact information:

In case of question or concerns please program the following items into your electronic devices:

<https://tworiverscatholic.com/all-saints-faith-formation/> -to find Faith Formation Information.

Also, the Remind app for weekly and last minute updates.

allsaintsff@tworiverscatholic.com-email account that's checked by Katrina Kolles

(320) 292-1575 --- Katrina's cell phone for **immediate** needs of parents and teachers.

Office hours: 9:30a-1p M-F 6p-8p M, T, Th, F

Outside of office hours please email if it is not an emergency. If you are unable to get ahold of Katrina please call Jenny Revermann (Assistant) (320) 249-9949.

AND your child(ren)'s Faith Formation Teacher phone # in case of an absence.