

**CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**  
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2017/2018

**PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**

**1. Weekly Faith Formation for Levels 1-8.**

Begins September 18, 2017. Meets on Mondays from 4 - 5:25 pm or 6 – 7:25 pm  
At the time of registration parents choose which session they would prefer. Choice is honored on a first come basis. Early registration is very important (this is done in April/May). Late registration takes place in September.

**2. Expectations**

It is expected children attend every class. If sickness makes this impossible then a courtesy call is expected.

Parents are expected to participate in two diocesan formation sessions within the first two years their children are in the program. Each session is about 2 hours long:

- 1) Will Our Kids Have Faith      2) Passing on the Faith

\*\*Attendance is taken and certificates of participation given

Simultaneously with classes for the children, parents will be given an opportunity to deepen and enrich their own learning of the faith. These topics and dates will be communicated.

Parents are encouraged to commit some volunteer time to the Faith Formation Program or the Parish. (e.g. Catechist Aide, Sacrament meeting hospitality, Church cleaning, parish garden, etc.)

**3. Sacrament Program**

If your child is preparing for First Reconciliation/Eucharist or Confirmation a separate registration form needs to be filled out. Families registering children for the sacraments should check prior requirements.

**NEW REGISTRATIONS**

If your child is new to the program, we will need a full listing of any sacraments received and where they were received, along with any records of previous instruction. Please turn in all records at the time of registration.

**PAYMENT/ FEES**

1 Child	\$80
2 Children	\$110
3(or more) Children	\$130 (cap is \$130)

**EARLY REGISTRATIONS: By May 16<sup>th</sup> and accompanied with full payment entitles the family to a \$20 credit**  
(No registration can be taken after the first class on September 18<sup>th</sup>)

**Sacrament Fee** (Helps defray cost of special book and retreat)

First Reconciliation/Eucharist \$ 30  
Confirmation \$ 30

**Registration for the sacraments should be accompanied with sacrament fee, and required records.**

*No child will be refused Faith Formation due to the inability to pay full costs.  
If there is a problem this needs to be discussed with the Director of Faith Formation or the pastor.*

## SACRAMENTAL POLICY

### **1. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:**

The Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Penance, and Confirmation require parental involvement. Attendance at family sacramental preparation meetings and retreat days are required.

### **2. FIRST RECONCILIATION (Enrollment for preparing for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist is usually early October)**

Children are prepared for First Reconciliation (Confession) prior to First Eucharist. Parents and catechists take responsibility for preparing the children. These Sacraments are celebrated when the child is in First Eucharist Level 2 class.

### **3. FIRST EUCHARIST:**

Presuming that your child was baptized as an infant/has celebrated Reconciliation and that the family has had regular contact with the Church, First Eucharist is celebrated when the child is in First Eucharist Level 2 class. There is a special sacramental book. The completion of this book and participation in Family First Eucharist Days are requirements.

### **4. HIGH SCHOOL AGE**

What if I have a high school age son/daughter who has not received the sacraments? Usually there are extenuating circumstances that need to be clarified. If your child/ren of this age are seeking one/or several sacraments, it would require an interview with the Director of Faith Formation or the RCIA coordinator to determine how best your child/ren can be helped along their journey of faith toward receiving the sacraments. This would require parental commitment and involvement.

### **5. CONFIRMATION:**

Confirmation is celebrated when the child is in Confirmation Level 2 class. There will be one required parent informational meeting/candidate enrollment. In addition, there will be two sponsor/candidate sharing evenings. There is a special sacramental book. Students participate in a retreat and keep track of their service to others (service projects are started in Level 1 Confirmation class and group service projects during that time are required).

### **6. SPORTS:**

John Paul II Sports Program is open to all children in the parish. Children must be enrolled in a catholic school or registered and attend faith formation sessions faithfully. Faith formation families must be registered prior to the onset of any season and never later than the beginning of classes September 18<sup>th</sup> (this year). CYO sports require that they be registered and attend classes every week.

## QUESTIONS

### **1. WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED?**

#### **A. AND MY CHILD IS GRADE ONE OR YOUNGER?**

The Church considers children in this category the same way it does infants. It is the parent's decision to have the child baptized. The Baptism takes place at one of the regularly scheduled monthly parish celebrations of Baptism. Please contact the parish office (313) 928-1324 **not** the Faith Formation Office to arrange for this baptism. It is necessary that the family be registered as a member of the parish at least three months prior to the Baptism.

#### **B. AND MY CHILD IS GRADE THREE OR OLDER?**

To begin this process a meeting with the Director of Faith Formation, parents and children would be necessary. The children begin regular weekly faith formation classes and start in Level 1 RCIA for youth. Parents are included in monthly meetings.

NB: These sacraments do not complete one's learning and growth. Rather they mark the beginning of full initiation and so now real growth and learning must continue throughout life. Children need to continue to be part of the faith formation process.

### **2. WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS BEEN BAPTIZED IN ANOTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCH OR HAS BEEN BAPTIZED CATHOLIC WITH NO PREVIOUS RELIGIOUS FORMATION CLASSES?**

Families need to talk to the Faith Formation Director and then the children are directed to the appropriate level of formation.