

**ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC CHURCH
PONTE VEDRA, FLORIDA**



ST. JOHN PAUL II

CATHOLIC CHURCH

K-6 Family of Faith HANDBOOK
**(including 1st Reconciliation &
Holy Communion)**
2022-23

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Faith Formation is an important part of growing and developing our faith in Christ, at any age.

Parents are called and empowered by Christ to fulfill their *mission to proclaim the Gospel of Life* and to help their children grow closer to Him and better understand God's love for them. Our **Family Faith Formation** program centers on the importance of parents as their child's primary catechists. We offer engaging and inspiring resources for families with children in Kindergarten through 6th grade and plan community gatherings for fellowship and experiential prayer.

Family of Faith Formation for **Grades K-6** will consist of:

- Sophia Family of Faith Curriculum: the Creed
- The Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Pflaum Gospel Weeklies
- Monthly Parent Formation Meetings typically the 1st Thursday of each month starting in September
- Monthly Family Community Meetings (Thursday evening or Sunday afternoon)
- Weekly Mass Attendance and other Parish Activities/Celebrations
- Preparation for 1st Reconciliation and Holy Communion (if applicable)

Why Family Faith Formation?

Studies show that parents are the MOST IMPORTANT element in a child's faith-life. This is why the Church asks parents, at their child's Baptism, to accept the responsibility of forming their child in the practice of the faith. This program is designed to give you the tools and confidence to live that promise!

Is it hard to get to class every week? This program gives YOU the flexibility you need to deepen your family's faith formation together at a time most convenient for YOU.

Family formation is not just a program, but also a way of life. It provides parents with the tools needed not only to teach their faith but to live it.

PARENT MEETINGS

Parents attend a **Parent Enrichment Night** the first Thursday of each month. These evenings provide guidance for the material to be covered at home that month and opportunity for personal spiritual growth with other parents.

FAMILY COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The whole family comes to a **Family Community Meeting** either one Thursday or Sunday each month where they can share what they've learned and grow in friendship with Christ and each other.

ST. JOSEPH WORKSHOPS

New this year: **St. Joseph's Workshops**! Come to the church tent on most 2nd and 4th Thursdays for an open session to complete activities with other families. Not only will this offer structure for making time to do A Family of Faith, but it will help facilitate a growing community of families together. Dates for the St. Joseph Workshops will be sent out at the beginning of each month.

ATTENDANCE/PARISH EVENTS

Participate regularly in the life of the Church by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, receiving the Sacraments, including Reconciliation, and actively giving service to others. Parish events are often interwoven into the dates for Family of Faith.

CALENDAR



2022-23

K-6 Faith Formation

Parent Faith Formation Orientation Thursday: August 18, 2022 @ 6pm

<p><i>September</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 9/1 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 9/15 @ 6pm or Sunday, 9/18 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>October</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 10/6 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Sunday, 10/16 @ 1:30pm or Thursday, 10/20 @ 6pm</p>	<p><i>November</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 11/3 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Sunday, 11/20 @ 1:30pm Friendsgiving</p>
<p><i>December</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 12/1 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 12/15 @ 6pm or Sunday, 12/18 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>January</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 1/5 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Thursday, 1/19 @ 6pm or Sunday, 1/22 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>February</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 2/2 @ 6pm</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Sunday, 2/12 @ 1:30pm or Thursday, 2/16 @ 6pm</p>
<p><i>March</i></p> <p><u>Parent Formation Night:</u> Thursday, 3/2 @ 6pm (will cover March & April material)</p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Sunday, 3/5 @ 1:30pm or Thursday, 3/23 @ 6pm</p>	<p><i>April</i></p> <p><u>Family Community Meetings:</u> Divine Mercy Sunday Event April 16: time tbd</p>	<p><i>End of Year Celebration</i></p> <p><u>May 21, 2023 after the Noon Mass</u> <i>Join us for our 2nd Annual Faith Formation End of the Year Celebration! More details closer to event.</i></p>



2022 - 23



First Sacraments

Reconciliation & Holy Communion

The beautiful child that you brought into the world, named and carried to the Church for baptism, is now ready to make another step in his or her sacramental life. They have reached the time to begin the preparation for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. *Participation in the sacraments is a shared responsibility of parents, catechists, and the church itself, which is the assembly of believers united in Christ. The following is a general overview of how this process occurs within our parish.*

THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Diocese of St. Augustine Guidelines requires a consecutive two (2) year process to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion. This process begins when you enroll your child/youth in the Religious Education Program. The first year of study helps the children/youth come to a deeper personal knowledge of Jesus. They learn that Jesus teaches us about God's love for us and how we can respond to that love. The second year of the process continues these themes and provides the children/youth with a growing sense of their Catholic identity.

In the event that your young person has not completed preparation and/or received a particular sacrament, and you are concerned, you should contact the Family Life Coordinator to explore a way forward that fulfills the essential preparation needed.

Children preparing for these Sacraments should be concurrently enrolled in the SJPII K-6 Family of Faith program, or at a Diocese of St. Augustine Catholic School, or be a homeschooled family. Homeschool families must provide information on religious education materials used at home. First Sacrament preparation is a two-step process. Children will receive religious education all year long and will also attend classes beginning in January that directly prepare them to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

PARENT/CHILD CLASS MEETINGS

Students receiving the sacrament of 1st Reconciliation and Holy Communion follow the year long K-6 Family of Faith program as described in this handbook. Additional classes for those receiving the sacraments of 1st Reconciliation and Holy Communion begin in January. The classes are attended by both the parent and child and are 1 per month January - March. See calendar for specific dates.

RETREATS

Each student receiving the 1st Sacraments at SJPII will be required to attend a retreat. Retreats are designed to remind them of what they have learned and give them opportunities to encounter Christ through prayer, reflection and interaction.

1ST RECONCILIATION

1st Reconciliation takes place in the spring before the Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion.

1st Reconciliation for Children from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/sacrament-reconciliation-children-examination-conscience>

1ST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES





1st Holy Communion is celebrated at weekend masses at SJPII with our fellow parishioners. 1st Holy Communion masses will be offered typically the first two weekends of May.

Mass is celebrated at SJPII on Saturdays @ 4pm or 6pm and Sundays @ 8am, 10am, or 12pm. Each family will choose a date and time via a sign up that will be sent out in an email in January. Seats are limited for each mass.

1ST COMMUNION ATTIRE GUIDELINES





1st Holy Communion **GIRL ATTIRE**



-  White modest dress with white shoes. No strapless dresses.
-  If the dress has spaghetti straps, please wear a sweater or shawl while you are in the church.
-  Veils are optional.
-  Dress shoes only. Girls may wear dressy white open-toes shoes if they are appropriate.

1st Holy Communion **BOY ATTIRE**



-  Dress pants with a white button down shirt.
-  Sports coat and tie are optional.
-  A white suit is appropriate but not required.
-  Dress shoes only. No athletic shoes, flip flops or sandals.

CALENDAR



2022 - 23



First Sacraments

1st Reconciliation & Holy Communion

Class Dates for 1st Reconciliation/Holy Communion

These dates are in addition to K-6 Family of Faith program dates.

These dates are in person with parent and child.

January 26, 2023 @ 6pm

February 23, 2023 @ 6pm

March 30, 2023 @ 6pm

Retreat

- Retreat is attended by parents and child.
- The sacrament of 1st Reconciliation will be included in the retreat.
- Location and time TBD.

April 29, 2023

1st Holy Communion Masses

- 1st Holy Communion will take place at each mass during the weekend liturgies.
- Mass times: Saturdays @ 4pm or 6pm. Sundays @ 8am, 10am, or 12pm.
- A sign up will be sent out at the beginning of January. Space is limited at each mass.

May 6-7, 2023

May 13-14, 2023