

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



**ST. JOHN PAUL II**  

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**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**K-6 Family of Faith HANDBOOK**  
(including First Holy Communion and Reconciliation)

**2024-25**

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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* by helping 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.

***Since all of this is lived out in the context of parish life, families must be registered at Saint John Paul II and participate in weekly weekend liturgies.*** Each parent is also strongly encouraged to engage in at least one parish ministry, some of which can be found here: <https://nocateecatholic.com/ministries/>

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

- Sophia Institute Press **Family of Faith** Curriculum: the Sacraments
- The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*
- Monthly **Family Lesson Meetings** typically the 1st Thursday evening or Sunday afternoon of each month starting in September (check calendar for dates)
- 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! Family formation is not just a program, but also a way of life. It provides parents with the tools needed not only to teach the faith but to live it more intentionally.

## **FAMILY LESSON MEETINGS**

Parents and children attend a **Family Lesson Meeting**, typically the first Thursday or Sunday of each month, tentatively (check calendar for dates). These Meetings will include parent-child discussion, a lesson for children taught by catechists, a lesson for parents (including pointers as to what they will cover in the at-home lesson) and prayer together.

## **FAMILY COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

The whole family comes to a **Family Community Meeting** typically the third Thursday or Sunday each month (check calendar for dates) where they can share what they've learned and grow in friendship with Christ and each other.

## **ATTENDANCE/PARISH EVENTS**

Attendance will be taken at **Parent Formation Meetings** and **Family Community Meetings**. Families should attend at least 5 of the 8 Family Lesson Meetings and at least 5 of the 8 Family Community Meetings in order to be considered fully participating. Parents with extenuating circumstances are asked to reach out to the Family Life Coordinator for consultation regarding attendance.

Parents' efforts to help their family members encounter Christ are strengthened through regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church by **attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and receiving the Sacraments** (Reconciliation and Holy Communion). If your family is not currently experiencing Mass regularly, please consider it as an essential family goal to work towards Mass every weekend. For example, when you are traveling, consider using the App **Masstimes.org** to help you find a church in your area to attend. Please let the Family Life Coordinator know if there is any help that you need to achieve this goal. Catholic identity is also fostered by participation in the cultural festive celebrations of faith, retreats and actively giving service to others. Families are encouraged to view all of these as components of vibrant family faith formation.

# K-6 FAMILY OF FAITH CALENDAR



2024 - 25

## K-6 Faith Formation with First Holy Communion



**Required Parent K-6 Orientation Thursday: August 22, 2024 @ 6pm**

<p><i>September</i></p> <p><b><u>Family Lesson Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 9/5 @ 6pm or Sunday, 9/8 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b><u>Family Community Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 9/19 @ 6pm or Sunday, 9/22 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>October</i></p> <p><b><u>Family Lesson Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 10/3 @ 6pm or Sunday, 10/6 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b><u>Family Community Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 10/24 @ 6pm or Sunday, 10/27 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b>1st Holy Communion Parent &amp; Student Class:</b> <b>Thursday, 10/10 @ 6pm</b></p>	<p><i>November</i></p> <p><b><u>Family Lesson Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 11/7 @ 6pm or Sunday, 11/10 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b><u>Family Community Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 11/14 @ 6pm or Sunday, 11/17 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b>1st Holy Communion Parent &amp; Student Class:</b> <b>Thursday, 11/21 @ 6pm</b></p>
<p><i>December</i></p> <p><b><u>Family Lesson Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 12/5 @ 6pm or Sunday, 12/8 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b><u>Family Community Meetings:</u></b> No scheduled mtgs this month</p> <p><b>1st Reconciliation Retreat</b> <b>December 14th 9am-12pm</b> <b>*Required for 1st Holy Communion</b></p>	<p><i>January</i></p> <p><b><u>Family Lesson Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 1/9 @ 6pm or Sunday, 1/12 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b><u>Family Community Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 1/23 @ 6pm or Sunday, 1/26 @ 1:30pm</p>	<p><i>February</i></p> <p><b><u>Family Lesson Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 2/6 @ 6pm or Sunday, 2/9 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b><u>Family Community Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 2/20 @ 6pm or Sunday, 2/23 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b>1st Holy Communion Parent &amp; Student Class:</b> <b>Thursday, 2/13 @ 6pm</b></p>
<p><i>March</i></p> <p><b><u>Family Lesson Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 3/6 @ 6pm or Sunday, 3/9 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b><u>Family Community Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 3/27 @ 6pm or Sunday, 3/30 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b>1st Holy Communion Parent &amp; Student Class:</b> <b>Thursday, 3/13 @ 6pm</b></p>	<p><i>April</i></p> <p><b><u>Family Lesson Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 4/3 @ 6pm or Sunday, 4/6 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b><u>Family Community Meetings:</u></b> Thursday, 4/10 @ 6pm or Sunday, 4/13 @ 1:30pm</p> <p><b>1st Holy Communion Retreat:</b> <b>4/12 or 4/26: 9am-12pm</b> <b>*Required for 1st Holy Communion</b></p>	<p><i>May</i></p> <p><b><u>1st Holy Communion Masses:</u></b> Weekends of May 4th/5th and May 11th/12th</p> <p><b>End of the Year Celebration:</b> May 18th after Noon Mass</p>



## *K-6 Faith Formation with First Holy Communion*



**The beautiful children that you have brought into the world by God's grace, named and carried to the Church for baptism, are now ready to make another step of initiation into the Church.** 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 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 require a consecutive two (2) year process (first and second grade) to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion. The first year of study helps the children/youth come to a foundational knowledge of Jesus. They learn what 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. It is during the second year that children/youth celebrate First Reconciliation/Communion.

### **PARENT/CHILD CLASS MEETINGS**

In addition to participating in the K-6 **Family of Faith** program, additional immediate prep sessions are required in October/November for those preparing for the sacrament of First Reconciliation and February/March for Holy Communion. These sessions are attended by parents and children. See calendar for specific dates.

### **RETREATS**

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

a child is unable to attend our St. John Paul II First Communion Retreat, parents must reach out to another parish to ensure the child participates in that retreat instead.

## **1ST RECONCILIATION**

First Reconciliation takes place during the Advent Season. Here is a resource for an examination of conscience for First Reconciliation for Children from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [Let the Children Come: The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Children | USCCB](#)

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES**

First Holy Communion is celebrated at SJPII with our fellow parishioners in the context of our regular weekend liturgies as the entire parish community embraces and celebrates the deeper union of the children with Christ and the Church. First 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* **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.

### *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.



# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CALENDAR



2024 - 25

*K-6 Faith Formation  
with First Holy Communion*



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