



SAINT THERESA
THE LITTLE FLOWER
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith Formation Program

GOAL

The goal of our faith formation program is to support and assist parents in the discipleship of their children's faith. We provide opportunities to enrich their faith through knowledge, prayer and the sacraments. Their faith journey, as is yours, is a lifelong one. Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith and we want each of you to develop a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.. It is only through a personal relationship with Christ that we will answer his call to know, love and serve him in our parish community and beyond.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide encounters with the living God and help families to form and grow in their relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- Faithfully teach the doctrine of our faith as provided to us in the Catechism and Sacred Scripture.
- Effectively communicate the faith using age and developmentally appropriate Pedagogical models.
- Utilize the technological tools given to us build community and evangelize.

POLICIES

GENERAL POLICIES

1. All families participating in the faith formation program must be active, registered members of our parish. An active member is defined as one who attends Mass regularly, contributes to the financial needs of the parish and participates in the ministries of the parish.
2. All children of the parish need to attend the grade appropriate faith formation class on a weekly basis each year. Attending only during Sacramental preparation years is not actively participating in the faith or the parish.
3. Homeschooled children are strongly encouraged to attend the weekly classes. If you don't wish to participate you must have a letter signed by our parish priest excusing you from attending. You also need to submit your curriculum for your



SAINT THERESA
THE LITTLE FLOWER
CATHOLIC CHURCH

religious education if you are not using the same as the parish. You will be required to provide this letter on a yearly basis.

4. Students attending a Catholic school will be required to attend regular classes during their Sacramental preparation years. During nonsacramental years, the office needs to be informed of the name of their Catholic school.
5. All children participating in the faith formation program must attend class weekly, participate in parish life through regular Mass attendance, receiving Reconciliation as often as possible, and participate in service projects.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. You are expected to get your children to class on time and pick them up on time. We begin class promptly at 9:15 and all students will be in the hall by 10:35am. Tardiness, early dismissal, and late pickup should be the exception not the rule.
2. Attendance in class is required. If your child misses more than two classes in a row expect a follow up from their Catechist or Leslie McGowan. If you know your child will not be able to attend regularly due to your schedule or family issues please talk to me and see what we can work out. There is an online component to the program you can do at home with your family. It does cost but this way your child is able to keep up with the program.
3. You need to notify the Director of Religious Education if your child will be absent at leslie@sttheresachurch.com. Please make sure you do this before not after the absence.

BEHAVIORAL POLICY

1. All students are expected to treat their Catechists and classmates with respect and dignity.
2. Students are expected to take care of all materials and supplies provided to them, as well as the classroom.
3. Any child who cannot behave appropriately the first time will be spoken with during and after class to explain themselves and apologize. The parent will be notified in person or by email of their child's misbehavior and expectations for future classes. If the behavior continues beyond two class meetings, a parent will be required to sit in class with their child or remove them from the program.
4. Physical or verbal abuse of any kind will not be tolerated.



SAINT THERESA
THE LITTLE FLOWER
CATHOLIC CHURCH

5. Cell phones or any other electronic devices should not be used in class unless the Catechist has given the students permission. If your child has their devices out they will be confiscated and returned after class. If this violation continues a parent will be required to come to class to retrieve the device.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION POLICY:

1. **First Communion and Reconciliation-** Children preparing for this sacrament must have attended a prior year of faith formation. A letter from the previous parish's Religious Education Director will suffice as proof of attendance if you are new to our parish. This sacrament is celebrated in the second grade. Parents and students are required to attend any special events pertaining to Sacramental Preparation and complete all necessary assignments or projects. If your child has not received First Communion and First Reconciliation and is beyond the second grade, please contact the Director of Religious Education.
2. **Confirmation-** Policies regarding Confirmation can be found in the Confirmation packet on the website. We celebrate this Sacrament in the ninth grade.
3. **Catholic school students:** You are only required to attend our faith formation program during this year. We don't offer specific preparation sessions, the whole year will be devoted to preparing the class for the Sacrament of First Communion and First Reconciliation and building community.
4. **Homeschooled children:** They are required to either attend faith formation classes or use the same faith education curriculum as the parish. They will need a letter from the pastor recognizing their exception from attendance and will be required to attend the last four weeks of class leading up to receiving the Eucharist.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

1. We want to make sure we keep the lines of communication open at all times. We have a church website that has information on our faith formation program, the monthly church calendar, updates on parish events and other pertinent information. Please check our website on a regular basis, www.sttheresachurch.com.
2. You can email Leslie McGowan at Leslie@StTheresaChurch.com if you have any issues or questions. You should receive a response within 48 hours. You can also ask for your child's teacher's email to make sure you receive the most up to date information about their class.

- 3. Please take a moment to join flocknote. This is our parish group texting notification service. Please text LITTLEFLOWER to 84576 to join. Leslie McGowan will send out communications via texting to alert you when class is not meeting or to notify you of special events throughout the year. If your child is in 6-8th grade please also text JRHI to 84576.**

Class times and meeting place

- K5-8 Sunday mornings 9:15-10:30am K5-2 in hall, 3-5 meeting center, 6-7 Adoration Chapel, 8th grade will meet in the converted garage in the meeting center.
- Confirmation Sunday evenings 5-6pm in the hall.

We hope you and your family will find your church home here. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you and your family in your faith journey.

Sign _____ Pastor of St. Theresa