

St. Bernard Faith Formation 2020-2021 Program Policies and Procedures

Registration: A family must be registered in the Parish before a child can be registered in the Faith Formation Program. Once you are a registered parishioner and your child is of the appropriate school-age, grades 1-10, you must complete our Faith Formation registration form. You will receive a confirmation email/phone call stating that your form was complete and you are registered.

Weekly Class at home: Given that our class will be ‘at home’ we ask that you set aside some time each week to go over the lesson, “Gospel Weeklies” with your child. The parent resources are very helpful and will take you ‘step by step’ through the lesson. Please note that the parent materials take into account situations where there is more than one child in the family who may be in a different grade. Our Faith Formation staff is available to assist you with any questions you may have.

Assessments: There are 4 Gospel Weekly Assessments that will be required to complete after each (8 week) Unit and 1 Final “Test” and submitted to the Faith Formation Office. These assessments will show the student’s completion of the grade level Faith Formation class. These assessments can be completed online and/or with a printable PDF form. Please be reminded that the tests are intended to help with the instruction process, not to assign rank or value to the students, they do not include grading criteria.

Sacramental Preparation Classes: Students registered in a Sacramental Preparation year, either First Communion (Grade 2) or Confirmation (Grade 9) will need to complete the Gospel Weeklies, as well as their sacramental prep curriculum. This requirement is to prepare them to make their Holy First Communion and Confirmation.

First Communion: The Curriculum is called ***Together in Jesus*** and it has a paper version, as well as, an online version. The online access has all the teaching tools and lessons needed to support at home instruction with a parent, guardian or grandparent. Students are required to complete 2 lessons a month.

There are 6 lessons for Reconciliation, which will be completed during the months of October, November and December. First Reconciliation will be planned for January. The First Communion workbook has 6 lessons and will be completed during the months of February, March and April with the First Communion Mass scheduled for May. Each lesson has an Assessment Quiz that must be completed either online or printed PDF.

Confirmation:

The Curriculum is called ***Gifted with the Spirit*** and it has a paper version, as well as an online version. There are 8 lessons and the lessons will be taught via once a month virtual meetings on 10/25, 11/22, 12/20, 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, and 5/16 all at 4p.m. Virtual Meetings will last about an hour, and will be recorded.

Each lesson is mandatory to complete to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. If there is an occasion where the student cannot be present at the virtual meeting, then they can watch the recorded lesson and turn in an online assessment.

Besides the virtual classes, each Confirmation student is expected to complete 20 hours of community service during the two year program. In the past we have required 10 hours of service specifically in our church, and another 10 in the community. Due to the current climate we are allowing the 2021 and 2022 Confirmation Classes to complete all service hours remotely. Ideas for community service would be to partner up with an organization you trust in the community, to find projects at your house to complete, or at the house/yard of a person you trust. The service hour form can be found on our website which should be turned in to the Faith Formation Office upon completion.

Confirmation is made in the fall of their 10th grade year once they have successfully completed the program. For public school students the Confirmation program is a two year program. In year 1 (8th grade) the students work on the Gospel Weeklies. In year two (9th grade) the students do the Gospel Weeklies as well as the Gifted with the Spirit curriculum. Catholic school students join in during year two.

During the fall we will ask for paperwork to be turned in on their sponsor, saint name, 20 service hours. Due to COVID-19 there may be some upcoming changes that we may have to put in place and we will communicate those changes as soon as possible. More information will come out in the spring before your student's Confirmation.

Mass Attendance: It is our hope that you will feel comfortable to return to regular Mass attendance. Bishop Tobin has removed the 'obligation' to attend Mass during the pandemic. Some families may have health concerns that keep them from attending---we understand that. Since we are not meeting for Faith Formation classes we are hoping that the Sunday Mass provides an opportunity to bring the 'community' together. We have put a schedule together for 8:30a.m. Sunday Masses where will 'spotlight' a particular grade----and ask you to stay a few minutes after Mass for a 'review and preview' of the lessons you have been working on. If you are unavailable to attend for any reason, the expectation is that students watch the Weekly Mass online so that the connection to their *Gospel Weekly* curriculum is made.

Communication: Communication between our parish and families is essential. Our methods of communication are the parish website, emails, the parish bulletin, and via pulpit announcements at the conclusion of the weekend Masses. Please keep us informed of important developments of your family, as well, changes to your email address. Emails will be vitally important to the connection between the student and their Faith Formation - so please be sure to check your email regularly and read the whole email for all important information shared. Please consider us family and therefore communication between us is important.