

St. Patrick

Faith Formation Office

Guidelines

for

Families

The Faith Formation Program at St. Patrick exists to support the parents who are the primary educators of their children. We provide a curriculum that teaches Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and is in full agreement with the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church and its Catechism.

This document is provided for the guidance and instruction of families in the St. Patrick Faith Formation Program.

Adoration

Twice during the school year (once during Advent and once during Lent), we will take the children to the church to participate in adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ as He is **TRULY PRESENT** in the Eucharist and exposed in a monstrance. **Families are encouraged to participate in Adoration and Confession with their children.** Check the current Faith Formation schedule for dates and times.

Attendance

Attendance is taken every class period and recorded in the Faith Formation portal on OSV. Children are expected to be in class and on time.

Parents of children who are frequently absent and/or tardy (3 or more times) will be contacted by the catechist, especially those students preparing for a sacrament.

Attendance Policy (Sacramental Preparation Classes)

Attendance is mandatory for all children, especially in the sacramental preparation classes. This includes Pre-First Holy Communion (formerly grade 1), First Holy Communion (formerly grade 2), Pre-Confirmation 1 (formerly grade 6), Pre-Confirmation 2 (formerly grade 7), and Confirmation (formerly grade 8). Students preparing for a sacrament who miss 3 or more classes may be delayed and not be recommended to the pastor for their respective sacrament. (An excused absence is when parents have contacted the Faith Formation office by phone and identified that their child will be absent and for what reason.)

Books

In St. Patrick's Faith Formation Program (FF), we use the *Word of Life* series of texts by Ignatius Press. We believe this series provides the best material for instruction for our children. An additional plus is that the art contained in the textbook is classical Catholic art.

Each parent of a student in grades K through 8 will receive their textbooks at the back-to-faith formation night.

Classroom Use

Faith Formation classes are held in the St. Patrick School. Please remind your children to leave the room as they found it.

Confession

Periodically, throughout the school year, the Faith Formation Office will schedule the Sacrament of Confession for the 3rd to 8th grades during Eucharist Adoration. The Faith Formation Office will provide age-appropriate guides for children's confession. **Families are encouraged to participate in confession during these times.**

Curriculum

Catechists are here to present the fullness of the teaching of the Catholic Church according to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. We are guided by the *Arlington Diocese: Elementary Faith Formation Standards of Learning* for all levels. If you have any questions, please bring them up to the Director of Faith Formation.

Discipline Plan

Order must be maintained in the classrooms throughout the class period. A classroom discipline plan will be discussed on the first day of class and followed throughout the year by the Catechist and agreed upon by the students. These procedures represent the means of maintaining a safe and beneficial learning environment for the students in the St. Patrick Faith Formation Program.

Rules

1. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
2. Speak respectfully to everyone.
3. Raise your hand to be called upon; don't talk unless called to.
4. Follow directions the first time. **(Some children need help on this.)**
5. Gentlemen may not wear hats/baseball caps in the School/Church.
6. No chewing gum in the School/Church
7. No mp3 players, cell phones, or other electronic devices. Exceptions can be made for health monitoring devices or apps.

Consequences

- 1st Warning - is an oral one and is recorded by the catechist; parents will not be informed until the 2nd warning;
- 2nd Warning - Phone call to the parents from Director of Faith Formation may go home to be signed and must be returned before student can attend class;
- 3rd Warning - Child is dismissed from class and may return only after a conference is conducted with the parent, teacher, and Director of Faith Formation.

Dismissal, Class

The following directions for dismissal are very important for the safety of everyone in the program. Students will be dismissed at the end of the class period, not before. Notice the following specific instructions:

1. Students will remain in their classrooms quietly waiting for the dismissal announcement.
2. **No vehicle will be allowed to leave the line until all the children are in their vehicles. This is for the safety of the children.**
3. **Once all the children are in their respective vehicles, the cones in front of the cars will be removed.**

Fire Drill

Once a year, we conduct a fire drill with the catechists and children.

Grades

The term "grade" will not be used; instead, we will be using "level" to determine the student's progress and preparation for a specific sacrament.

The Levels:

Kindergarten	Level 5 (formerly grade 5)
Pre-First Holy Communion (formerly grade 1)	Pre-Confirmation 1 (formerly grade 6)
First Holy Communion (formerly grade 2)	Pre-Confirmation 2 (formerly grade 7)
Level 3 (formerly grade 3)	Confirmation (formerly grade 8)
Level 4 (formerly grade 4)	

Homework and Missed Classes

Each week, homework may be assigned in the activity book. Parents are expected to help their children with their prayers, complete their assignments, and study the material covered in the text. Parents must participate in the Faith for their children's faith to flourish. For any missed classes, the parents are expected to cover the material at home. The parents may contact the catechists for the material covered in class that week. We encourage parents to review the material each week before the next class. Practically speaking, the catechist only has limited time to introduce the material in class. The real study must take place at home.

Inclement Weather (Snow Days) or Cancellations

St. Patrick's Faith Formation Office follows the Spotsylvania Public Schools inclement weather policy: if public schools dismiss early because of inclement weather, we will not have class. If Spotsylvania Public Schools are closed, we will not have class. If the parish school is closed, we are closed. **Whenever classes are canceled, the teacher does not have to make up the missed lesson. Parents are asked to cover all missed work at home.**

Interview of Students

Unless provided with a court-issued warrant, the Director of Faith Formation and the Parish Office must first be consulted before law enforcement authorities are allowed to speak to any student. This policy does not apply to Child Protective Services (CPS) officers, who are by law entitled to interview children.

The questioning by police officers of students in school or on school grounds shall meet the following conditions:

- a. The DFF, the Assistant DFF, or the Pastor shall be alerted.
- b. The police officers shall report to the school principal's office.
- c. Permission from the student's parent/guardian must be acquired, either by phone or in person, prior to questioning.
- d. The DFF or Pastor shall be present.
- e. The questioning shall be conducted in the school principals office where participants cannot be seen or heard by students and/or other faith formation personnel.

Lockdowns

There will be one lockdown drill per year with the students.

Mass Attendance

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "The first precept ('You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.') requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord." (paragraph 2041)

Missing Sacraments

Each year, the St. Patrick Faith Formation Program offers a special class for children in grades 3 and above who are missing the sacraments of Baptism, First Penance, First Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation. The FF Office assigns students to these special classes.

Prayer Memorization

An important requirement of the St. Patrick FF Program is the memorization of prayers/doctrine appropriate for grade levels. Children (with the help of their parents) are responsible for the prayers appropriate for their grade level. See the **List of Prayers & Doctrinal Items** at the end of this document.

Quizzes and Tests

Periodic quizzes or tests (mid-term and finals) are an important part of determining student's preparedness for class and their comprehension of the material covered each week. Written quizzes or tests may be given each week on the material covered the week before. At the end of the academic year, each student will be tested for their accomplishments. A passing grade must be achieved before moving to the next level.

List of Prayers & Doctrinal Items by Level

First Grade:

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule, to guide. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Second Grade (Plus All of the Previous Grade Level):

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Act of Contrition in the Confessional

O my God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance to sin no more and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Names of the Sacraments

Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary I offer thee my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of thy Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our Bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

Third Grade (Plus All of the Previous Grade Levels):

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy; hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us. And after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God;

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Fourth Grade (Plus All of the Previous Grade Levels):

The Rosary

Apostles' Creed
Our Father
Hail Mary

Glory Be...
Hail, Holy Queen

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother: to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

The Stations of the Cross

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus carries his Cross.
3. Jesus falls the first time.
4. Jesus meets his mother.
5. Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene.
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time.
8. Jesus speaks to the women.
9. Jesus falls a third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of his clothes.
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
12. Jesus dies on the Cross.
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross.
14. Jesus is placed in the tomb.

Fifth Grade (Plus All of the Previous Grade Levels):

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive, from your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace After Meals

We give You thanks for all Your benefits, O Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever. May

the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Act of Hope

O my God, relying on thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of thy grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that thou art one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; I believe that thy Divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths that the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because thou hast revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be

deceived.

Act of Love

O my God, I love thee above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because thou art all good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of thee. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

Mysteries of the Rosary

The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation.
2. The Visitation.
3. Nativity.
4. The Presentation of Jesus.
5. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Luminous Mysteries

1. Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
2. Wedding Feast at Cana
3. Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

The Angelus

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary....

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done to me according to thy word.
Hail Mary....

V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary....

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden.
2. Scourging at the Pillar.
3. The Crowning with Thorns.
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V. Let us pray.

R. Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Sixth Grade (Plus All of the Previous Grade Levels):

The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes proclaim the blessings and rewards for those following Christ.

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| 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. | 6. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. |
| 2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. | 7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. |
| 3. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land. | 8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. |
| 4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. | 9. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven. |
| 5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. | |

Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. Feeding the hungry;
2. Giving drink to the thirsty;
3. Sheltering the homeless;
4. Clothing the naked;
5. Visiting the sick;
6. Visiting the imprisoned, and
7. Burying the dead.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. Admonishing the sinner;
2. Instructing the ignorant;
3. Counseling the doubtful;
4. Comforting the sorrowful;
5. Bearing wrongs patiently;
6. Forgiving all injuries; and
7. Praying for the living and the dead

Seventh Grade (Plus All of the Previous Grade Levels):

Seven Capital Sins: Pride, Anger, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Avarice, and Sloth (PALE GAS)

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Counsel, Knowledge, Piety, Understanding, Fortitude, and Fear of the Lord. (WCKPUFF)

Five Precepts of the Church (CCC 2041-2043)

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
 - A. Solemnity of Mary, January 1.
 - B. Ascension Thursday (forty days after Easter).
For the Arlington Diocese, this has been moved to Sunday.
 - C. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15.
 - D. Solemnity of All Saints, November 1.
 - E. Immaculate Conception, December 8.
 - F. Christmas Day, December 25.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall provide for the needs of the Church.

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorization is not required)

Lord, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, hear us,
 God the Father of Heaven,
 God the Son, Redeemer of the World,
 God the Holy Spirit,
 Holy Trinity, one God,
 Holy Mary,
 Holy Mother of God,
 Holy Virgin of virgins,
 Mother of Christ,
 Mother of divine grace,
 Mother most pure,
 Mother most chaste,
 Mother inviolate,
 Mother undefiled,
 Mother most amiable,
 Mother most admirable,
 Mother of good counsel,
 Mother of our Creator,
 Mother of our Savior,
 Mother of our Savior,
 Mother of our Savior,
 Virgin most prudent,
 Virgin most venerable,
 Virgin most renowned,
 Virgin most powerful,
 Virgin most merciful,
 Virgin most faithful
 Mirror of justice,
 Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, graciously hear us.
 Pray for us.
 Pray for us.
 Pray for us.
 Seat of Wisdom,
 Cause of our joy,
 Spiritual vessel,
 Vessel of honor,
 Singular vessel of devotion,
 Mystical rose,
 Tower of David,
 Tower of ivory,
 House of gold,
 Pray for us.

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Pray for us.
Pray for us.
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Pray for us.
Pray for us.
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Pray for us.
Pray for us.
Pray for us.

spare us, O Lord.
graciously hear us, O Lord.
have mercy on us, O Lord.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
Let us pray: Grant, O Lord God, we beseech Thee, that we Thy servants may rejoice in continual health of mind and body, and, through the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may be freed from present sorrow, and enjoy eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember: **Good Gent, Gene Plays₂ Family Jacks**