



ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
SHARON, PENNSYLVANIA



# Faith Formation Parent/Student Handbook

Revised October 1, 2024

**St. Joseph Church**

79 Case Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

Rev. James Power ..... Pastor

Email: [jpower@eriercd.org](mailto:jpower@eriercd.org)

Phone: (724) 981-3232, ext. 16

Melissa Joseph ..... Director of Religious Education

Email: [stjosephsharonfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsharonfaithformation@gmail.com)

Phone: (724) 981-3232, ext. 14

Lori Vasconi ..... Parish Secretary

Email: [stjosephchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephchurchoffice@gmail.com)

Phone: (724) 981-3232, ext. 10

**Catechist List**

Debbi D'Amore .....	Office Assistant
Jill Fox .....	Kindergarten Catechist
Maria Rodriguez.....	Kindergarten Aide
Christine Walsh .....	First Grade Catechist
Cora Joseph .....	First Grade Student Aide
Paula Emery .....	Second Grade Catechist
Jill Stanek .....	Third Grade Catechist
Shelley Missory.....	Fourth/Fifth Grade Catechist
Chuck Burke .....	Fourth/Fifth Grade Aide
Erin Warrender .....	Edge Program Coordinator
Eileen Anderson .....	Edge Core Member
Pete Fitzgerald .....	Edge Core Member
Mary Beth Jones .....	Edge Core Member
Keith Lepak .....	Edge Core Member
Kate Smith .....	Edge Core Member
Devon Smith.....	Edge Core Member
Domenic Ellis .....	Purpose Core Member
Payne Moschillo .....	Purpose Student Core Member

## **St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation Program**

### **Mission Statement**

The St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation Program is an on-going faith journey which serves the youth and adults of our parish by leading them to Jesus Christ and knowledge, love, and service of God.

### **Vision Statement**

Through a warm, friendly, and caring atmosphere, students are encouraged to inquire and learn about their Catholic faith and to share fellowship with other members of the faith community. Guided by the Holy Spirit, our instructors help to develop and deepen a student's loving relationship with God and Jesus Christ.

### **Goals**

- ❖ To provide our students with knowledge of the Catholic Faith.
- ❖ To support parents in their role as primary educators of their children.
- ❖ To prepare and engage our students in the Liturgy and the Sacraments.
- ❖ To provide our students with a moral foundation in Jesus Christ.
- ❖ To deepen the prayer life of children and youth.
- ❖ To prepare our students to be active members of the St. Joseph Parish community and the life and mission of the Church.
- ❖ To encourage our students to be stewards of God's Creation in a responsible, self-reflecting, and loving way.

### **St. Joseph Parish Mass Schedule**

Saturday 5:15 p.m.

Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Daily: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8:00 a.m.; Wed. 12:10 p.m.

Holy Days: 12:10 p.m., 7:00 p.m. (Check Bulletin)

### **Confession**

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. or by appointment

## St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation Program Policies

### Admission

The St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

In order for a child(ren) to be admitted to the catechetical program, the family must complete the appropriate registration and student information forms and indicate that they have read and accepted the policies contained in this handbook. These forms are available from the Director of Religious Education or on the Faith Formation page of the parish website ([www.stjosephs-sharon.org](http://www.stjosephs-sharon.org)).

Students are typically enrolled in the grade in which they are currently attending in school unless other arrangements are made with the Director of Religious Education. An exception to this may be necessary to meet specific requirements for sacramental preparation.

A registration form for the next Faith Formation year is sent home with your child at the end of the current year, and a general registration session for all children is held each August. Families who wish to enroll their children at other times during the year may do so by contacting the Director of Religious Education.

### Book and Material Fees

The annual tuition is \$40 for a single child and \$70 per family (regardless of the number of children). Prompt payment by each family is appreciated. **NO ONE** will be denied participation because of financial difficulties. In such cases, parents should contact the Director of Religious Education. All such cases are kept in the strictest confidence.

Book and material fees are non-refundable after the start of classes in September.

### Attendance

Children who are enrolled in the parish Faith Formation program are expected to be in attendance consistently for each scheduled class session.

It is **very necessary** that those who are in Sacrament grades (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>) attend every possible class, so their preparation is complete.

### Missed Classes

If your child is going to be absent on a scheduled Faith Formation day, please call the parish office (724-981-3232) and leave a message in the voicemail for the Director of Religious Education or email the Director of Religious Education ([stjosephsharonfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsharonfaithformation@gmail.com)). If we have not received prior notification, an office volunteer will contact you (this is primarily for safety reasons).

Each class session builds on the material covered in preceding classes. Children who are absent miss a great deal and will have to make up the material covered in the missed class. If weekly attendance by your child is not possible due to extenuating circumstances/situations, please notify the Director of Religious Education for record keeping and safety reasons.

If for some reason there is an extended absence, please inform the Director of Religious Education.

If you anticipate a move or a transfer, please contact the Director of Religious Education so that records may be prepared for your child's transfer.

### Arrival and Dismissal

Classes for students in grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are held at Case Avenue Elementary School. Parents are asked to bring their children before the start of classes. Supervision will be provided for students during the stated class times. The program is not responsible for supervising children arriving more than 15 minutes early, nor for the activity of the children 15 minutes after dismissal. Please do not drop off your child(ren) more than 15 minutes before classes are scheduled to begin, and please pick up your child promptly at the end of class unless prior arrangements have been made for their supervision. Students in **Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades** will **NOT** be dismissed until a parent/guardian comes to the classroom for his/her child. Their designee or an older sibling who is in the Faith Formation program may pick up the student only if prior arrangements have been made with Faith Formation Administration.

When students arrive, they will congregate in the hallway by grade level and the grade level catechist/aide will meet them and take them to class. If a student is tardy, he/she must check in with his/her catechist, and if the weekly attendance sheet has already been sent to the office, the student must come to the office to make sure he/she is marked present. No student is permitted in the classroom without a catechist or aide present.

If a child has a prior commitment and needs to be dismissed prior to the usual dismissal time, a written/typed note must be submitted to the catechist at or before the beginning of class; the catechist will attach the note to his/her attendance sheet. For safety reasons, the child is to go to the Faith Formation office at the time he/she is to leave the premises, and the parent must come to the office to pick up the child.

Students in 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades will meet in the St. Joseph Church Guild Hall/Annex. Students should be dropped off no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of classes. Students will be dismissed and may be picked up in the church parking lot or may cross the street to Case Avenue Elementary School to be picked up with younger sibling(s). Adult volunteers will

monitor the parking lot during this time. All other arrival/dismissal guidelines presented above are to be followed for this age group.

### Visitors

Students may bring an occasional guest/visitor (with prior permission from the catechist) but the guest is subject to the classroom rules. They, too, must register at the office before proceeding to the classroom. Notifying the catechist or Director of Religious Education one week prior to a visit would be appropriate.

Catechist conferences, if desired, should be arranged for another time (see “Progress Reports”).

### Parents’ Day

With one week’s prior notice, parents are welcome to visit their child’s classroom at the scheduled time. Please consult the Faith Formation calendar for appropriate Faith Formation Parents’ Open House/Activity Day(s). On the scheduled family activity day, the children (by grade level) and their parents will congregate in the Case Avenue Elementary School cafeteria or St. Joseph Church Guild Hall.

### Special Events

Parents will be notified regarding any event or field trip for which the children will be taken off the parish or school grounds. If the child attends the field trip or special event, the parent must fill out a permission slip and turn it into the Catechist, who will then forward it to the Director of Religious Education. NO child will be permitted to go on the field trip or attend the special event without the required permission slip/medical forms.

### Class Schedule

Elementary and Middle School classes are held on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Having the children arrive on time is of the utmost importance. The calendar of classes provides the starting and ending dates for each term, along with all breaks. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class will have an alternate calendar that will be published in August.

### Homework

Catechists are encouraged to assign work for the children to do at home with the assistance of their parent(s). All homework assignments are expected to be completed. Parents, as “Primary Educators” are encouraged to ask their children about homework after each class period and discuss the day’s lesson with the child. What is taught in class needs to be reinforced at home.

### Progress Reports

In order to give the students formal feedback on their behavior in class and their participation and cooperation in the catechetical process, evaluations of your child’s progress will be sent home with the student two times a year. Parents are invited and encouraged to meet with the

catechists at these times if there are any concerns. Further communication between home and school is encouraged and welcomed. Please feel free to contact the staff by note, phone, or in person (it would be helpful if an appointment was made in arranging personal contacts).

### Student Records

St. Joseph's Director of Religious Education will maintain a *Permanent Record Form* for each student/family. Included on this form will be a record of sacraments received at St. Joseph's along with attendance and performance records. Parent(s) can review these records during normal working hours by contacting the Director of Religious Education. These records are the property of St. Joseph Parish and are available to all the professional staff of the parish. This material will not be released to anyone outside those mentioned above without the written consent of the parent(s).

### Curriculum

St. Joseph Parish follows the Diocese of Erie Curriculum Guidelines issued by Bishop Lawrence Persico. Textbooks and other materials used in the classrooms of St. Joseph's are in conformity with the teachings found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and have been selected to most closely match the Diocesan Curriculum. They have also been chosen because they offer catechist resources necessary to conduct classes, which includes all the elements of the ministry of catechesis. Presently the textbooks used are:

Elementary	<i>We Believe: Living Your Catholic Identity</i>	Publisher: Sadlier
Middle School	<i>Edge Program</i>	Publisher: LifeTeen
Confirmation	<i>Purpose Program</i>	Publisher: LifeTeen

### Home-Schooling

Some parents, especially those who home-school their child(ren) instead of sending them to public school, may choose to offer catechetical instruction to their child(ren) at home. Because the pastor is responsible for all forms of catechesis in the parish, it is the parents' responsibility to communicate to the pastor or Director of Religious Education that they wish to offer catechesis to their child(ren) at home.

The Diocese of Erie has specific requirements concerning homeschooling. As a parish of the Diocese of Erie, we follow these policies and guidelines. If you are interested in homeschooling, please contact the Director of Religious Education for a copy of the Diocesan guidelines. Once you have read the guidelines and feel that you would like to undertake this project, please contact the Director of Religious Education as she/he has been delegated to oversee the process in the name of the pastor.

### Supplies/Materials

Basic supplies (manuals, paper, glue, scissors, crayons, markers, Bibles, etc.) are available for use within the Faith Formation program. We encourage parents to become aware of projects

and activities going on from week to week. Please ask your child and/or check your Faith Formation calendar.

### Sacraments/Liturgy

Each year St. Joseph's invites a new group of children to participate more fully in the sacramental life of our parish family. We recognize the obligation and opportunity for parents to be the primary and principal educators of their children, the foundation upon which Jesus builds His Church. We recognize that families build upon and continue the traditions of our Catholic faith. As a parish, we seek to support and complement you in this endeavor.

To this end, our Sacramental Preparation Programs educate parents - providing materials and opportunities that assist them in their role as they help their children to encounter the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in sacramental life. Please plan to attend the scheduled sacramental meetings (sent under separate cover) if you wish your child to be enrolled in a sacramental program this year.

Each student preparing to receive a sacrament must have completed **two consecutive years** of Faith Formation **prior** to the grade in which the sacrament will be received.

Students will be prepared for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during the second grade. The preparation involves parent meetings, a retreat, and shared catechesis at home along with classroom preparation as found in the classroom text.

Parents are encouraged to bring their child(ren) to the Sacrament of Reconciliation at other times after their first reception of the sacrament.

Students are prepared for **First Holy Communion** during the third grade. The preparation involves parent meetings, a retreat, and shared catechesis at home along with regular classroom instruction.

Students are prepared for **Confirmation** during the ninth grade. The preparation involves parent meetings, a retreat, service hours, and shared catechesis at home along with regular classroom instruction.

**It is the responsibility of parents to see that their children (beginning with kindergarten) attend Mass every Sunday as well as Faith Formation classes. This is a responsibility to be taken seriously and is part of the fulfillment of the baptismal promise that parents make to rear their child(ren) in the Catholic Church. Attending Faith Formation classes is NOT a substitute for worshiping with the people of God. It is worship that is our obligation. Faith Formation aids us to live and worship well. As far as is possible, we will try to have at least one Celebration of Liturgy during the Faith Formation calendar year.**



## Discipline

Everyone involved in the program is challenged by the words and example of Jesus to respect each person's right to be treated not only with dignity and respect but also with love. In order to provide for a safe and well-ordered program in which students and catechists can learn to follow Jesus' call to love, some rules for behavior are necessary. Students are expected by their behavior to make the classes safe and positive experiences for themselves and their classmates. The programs exist for student growth and in turn students are expected to fulfill the following responsibilities, i.e., "code of conduct":

1. Show cooperation and respect to catechists, other students, and program personnel.
2. Treat the property, good name, and physical safety of others with respect.
3. Act in a safe manner in and around the building. Proper care of school and church property and equipment is expected.
4. Students are expected to arrive on time, remain until class has ended, and be present only in the areas of the building for which they have permission at a specific time. Requests for early dismissal must be in written form by a parent and approved by the Director of Religious Education.
5. Students are expected to actively participate in class and classroom activities. Use voice and display actions in a manner appropriate for a classroom. There should be no attempts to disrupt or disturb the class or classroom activities. Be respectful of the study time of others.
6. Use of, or possession of, illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco is strictly prohibited. Such items will be seized, and parents notified immediately. The child will be immediately removed from the environment.

Good discipline is self-discipline and is always aimed toward growth. We recognize that children may make mistakes and the role of the catechist at times will be one of guiding and correcting those mistakes in a positive manner. These corrections will always be done with the best interest of the child in mind and at no time will St. Joseph Faith Formation Program accept the demeaning or intimidation of children in the name of discipline.

## Disciplinary Process

The catechist is the main disciplinarian in the classroom. He/she will expect cooperation with the preceding rules. Should a situation develop that needs attention, the following course of action will be considered.

1. Private catechist-student conference
2. Private catechist-student-DRE conference
3. Consultation with parents
4. Appropriate steps taken

## Personal Belongings

Students are asked to leave all personal belongings at home, with the exception of class materials (book, notebook, folder, pencil, etc.). Cell phones are permitted for emergency purposes only; they must be turned off and kept out of sight at all times.

## Child Abuse

### **Protection of Children Policy: Diocese of Erie**

The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. Here at St. Joseph Church's Faith Formation programs, we realize sharing the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The privilege is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The responsibility is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ.

In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct, which can be accessed at <http://www.eriescd.org/pdf/codeofconduct.pdf>. The code is included in the Diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*, which also includes mandates for creating safe environments. To read the policy, go to <http://www.eriescd.org/pdf/policyabuse.pdf>.

For more information, you may contact Cindy Zemcik at the Diocesan office at 814-824-1195.

At St. Joseph, policies are followed for all our staff and volunteers who have contact with our parish children and youth. If you have any questions, or concerns, you may contact the Director of Religious Education at our office at 724-981-3232, extension 14.

### **Protection of Children Policy: St. Joseph**

St. Joseph's pastor, Faith Formation staff, and all volunteers who work with children are required to have clearances completed from the PA State Police (Criminal Record Check - PA Act 34) and the PA Department of Public Welfare (Child Abuse History Clearance - PA Act 151). They must complete all appropriate forms as identified by the Diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*, <https://www.eriescd.org/pdf/policyabuse.pdf>. They are also bound by the Pennsylvania Revised Code and Diocesan Policy and Protection of Children to report suspected or actual child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities. All staff, paid and volunteer, must complete an in-service training on protection of children, identification of child abuse and appropriate reporting procedures.

## Weapons Policy

In order to ensure the safe and Christian environment, it is forbidden for anyone to possess a weapon or any object/material/substance that could be used as a weapon or confused with a real weapon by any reasonable person (toy guns, etc.) in the buildings, or within the geographic boundaries of St. Joseph Parish, or in any location used by the parish to conduct

any catechetical activity, or in any conveyance providing transportation to and/or from any activity related to the Faith Formation program.

Weapons or potential weapons will be confiscated by the Director of Religious Education or his/her designee when this action does not place the Director of Religious Education or his/her designee in danger. If the student has used a weapon against another person or will not surrender the weapon or offending object/material/substance immediately and willingly, the local police will be called first, followed by notification of the parent(s). This is a ZERO tolerance policy.

Any student who violates this policy will be subject to immediate parish disciplinary action over and above any civil/criminal action brought by injured parties.

The student will be removed from the Faith Formation class and an alternative method of Faith Formation will be negotiated with the parent(s) for the remainder of the year. Judgements about readmittance to the program for the following year will be made on a case-by-case basis and this decision is at the sole discretion of the pastor.

If the incident involves an exchange of bodily fluids (for example, as in a wound which breaks the skin), the student(s) will be asked to submit to medical tests, for transmittable diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis B as recommended by a doctor. These tests will be at the parents' expense. In the name of being a community of Christians motivated by care and respect, this policy asks that the results of these tests, which are governed by guidelines of strict confidentiality, be openly shared with the respective parties on a need-to-know basis.

#### Threats of Violent Behavior

As a community of believers who value patience over aggression, and love above all else, it is inconsistent with our basic values to tolerate an environment of threat or fear. Threats of harm made against another individual or group of individuals are not acceptable and will NOT be tolerated.

This policy recognizes that in any community of people there will always be some conflict. Students will always be encouraged to manage their conflict in a positive, non-aggressive manner. Behavior such as cursing, pushing, or fighting will NOT be tolerated.

In cases which are deemed by the catechist or Director of Religious Education or his/her designee to be "minor" (meaning no reason to believe the situation would lead to physical harm), the students will be separated and encouraged to work out their differences after a "cool-down" period.

If the catechist regards the altercation as "serious" (meaning reasonable expectation that the conflict will lead to physical harm), the students will be immediately separated, the Director of

Religious Education or his/her designee will be notified, and the parent(s) of the students will be called. The Director of Religious Education must determine that the conflict is resolved before the students will be readmitted to the program.

Students are expected to report to their catechist or Director of Religious Education or his/her designee any threat made by a student which mentions the killing of any person. Such threats will be immediately reported to the police for investigation. The student making such threats will be suspended from the program until such time as the police investigation is completed and the appropriate authorities are satisfied that there is no real threat of harm. In such a case, judgements about readmittance to the program will be made on a case-by-case basis and this decision is at the sole discretion of the pastor.

### Harassment

Respect for the dignity and worth of each individual is a basic precept of Catholic doctrine and therefore of St. Joseph Parish. Parish leadership wishes to be vigilant regarding harassment whether between or among catechists and/or parish leaders, among students or between catechist/parish leaders and students. Such behavior will NOT be tolerated and if persistent harassment is proven, the offender will be dismissed when this is appropriate. Harassment of all forms is illegal, as well as immoral, and individuals will be encouraged to seek legal protection when necessary.

The term "harassment" refers to behavior that is NOT welcome, that is personally offensive and that fails to treat others with dignity and respect. It includes treating someone unfavorably because of their race, sex, creed, color, age or disability. Harassment may take the form of discrimination, unwelcome or critical comments or action. Harassment on the basis of sex might include unwelcome sexual advances, requests or demand for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct, including, but not limited to:

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, intimations, or comments.
- Visual contact such as derogatory and/or sexually oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings, or gestures.
- Physical contact such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movements, or interfering with work, study, or play because of sex.
- Retaliations for having reported or threatened to report such harassment.

The term "sexual harassment" refers to harassment based on the gender of the offended individual when people involved are of different "levels" within the parish. It involves threats and demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition of employment, grades, or other benefits or to avoid some other loss and offers of benefits in return for sexual favors. It also means creating a hostile environment for learning or work. Examples include, but are not

limited to, repeated unwelcome sexual advances, repeated sexually explicit jokes or comments, or the displaying of sexually inappropriate materials.

Allegations and complaints of any type of harassment must be reported as soon as possible. Parent(s) who become aware of incidents of sexual harassment should report them immediately to the Director of Religious Education or to the pastor.

## WEATHER AND OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

### Cancellation of Classes

Classes may be canceled from time to time due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. Cancellations will be announced by a telephone chain, group communication app (Remind/Google Classroom), and/or email. Please use common sense regarding weather and road conditions in your area. Also, on your calendars, please note the Sundays there are NO CLASSES.

### Safety Procedures for Fires and Other Emergencies

There are safety procedures posted in each room for fire and tornado emergencies. Catechists will instruct the students in these procedures during the first week of class. In case of fire or tornado, attendance will be taken after an emergency evacuation and no child will be dismissed without their parent or guardian. Parent(s) must check with the Director of Religious Education or his/her designee before leaving with their child to avoid unnecessary search and rescue operations.

## SICKNESS OR INJURY

### Sickness

Should a student become ill while in class, parent(s) will be contacted according to the information provided on the student registration form. If the parent is unavailable, attempts will be made to reach the backup person listed. The Director of Religious Education or his/her designee will make every effort to keep the child comfortable until he/she is picked up. Medications will NOT be administered to the child.

### Medications

Children are NOT to bring medications with them to Faith Formation classes without advance permission of the Director of Religious Education. It is the responsibility of parents to notify the Director of Religious Education of any changes in allergies or dietary restrictions.

### Injury

Catechists are asked to report any injury to the Director of Religious Education or his/her designee immediately. If an injury occurs, first aid will be administered in strict accordance with the *Blood-borne Pathogens* regulations of the Diocese of Erie and the parent(s) will be

contacted. If the injury requires immediate medical attention, the Director of Religious Education or his/her designee will call the appropriate emergency services, followed by a call to the parent(s). A first aid kit is available in the Faith Formation office.

## Appendix A - Prayers

### **Sign of the Cross** *(Know by Kindergarten)*

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

### **Our Father** *(Know by 1<sup>st</sup> grade)*

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.

### **Hail Mary** *(Know by 1<sup>st</sup> grade)*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you 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.

### **Glory Be** *(Know by 1<sup>st</sup> grade)*

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.

### **Act of Contrition** *(Know by 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)*

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. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

### **Apostles' Creed** *(Know by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade)*

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; on 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 there he will 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** *(Know by 4<sup>th</sup> grade)*

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

### **Prayer to the Holy Spirit** *(Know by 5<sup>th</sup> grade)*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

*Let us pray.*

O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Appendix B - Biblical Literacy

Students in the St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation program will become familiar with the following Biblical stories and be able to retell them in a manner appropriate to their age.

1. Creation (Genesis 1-2)
2. Adam and Eve (Genesis 3)
3. Noah and the Flood (Genesis 6-9)
4. Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12, 15, 17-18)
5. Joseph (Genesis 37, 39-47)
6. Moses (Exodus 1-15)
7. Ruth and Naomi (Book of Ruth)
8. David (1 Sam 17; 2 Sam 5-7)
9. Solomon (1 Kings 5-6)
10. Jonah (Book of Jonah)
11. Christmas (see below)
12. Zaccheus (Lk 19:1-10)
13. The Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37)
14. Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32)
15. Feeding of the 5000 (Mt 14:13-21)
16. Jesus Tempted in the Desert (Mt 4:1-11)
17. The Good Shepherd (Jn 10:1-18)
18. Baptism of Jesus (Mt 3:13-17)
19. Money Changers (Mk 11:15-19)
20. The Repentant Woman (Lk 7:36-50)
21. The Healing of the Paralytic (Lk 5:17-26)
22. The Transfiguration (Mt 17:1-13)
23. St. Paul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-19)
24. Wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-12)
25. Martha and Mary (Lk 10:38-42)
26. Call of the Disciples (Lk 5:1-11)
27. Women at the Well (Jn 4:1-30)
28. Widow of Naime (Lk 7:11-17)
29. Raising of Lazarus (Jn 11:1-12:19)
30. Peter on the Water (Mt 14:22-33)
31. Calming of the Storm (Mk 4:35-41)
32. Easter (see below)

Beginning in first grade, students should be able to tell the Christmas and Easter stories in an age appropriate manner. They will be able to tell the Nativity story, the Last Supper story, and the Easter story in first grade. They will expand their knowledge of these essential faith stories so that by sixth grade they will know the stories as outlined below:

### The Christmas Story

1. John the Baptist (Mt 3:1-12)
2. Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38)
3. Visitation (Lk 1:39-56)
4. Nativity (Lk 2:1-15)
5. Epiphany (Mt 2:1-12)
6. Presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:22-38)
7. Lost in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52)

### The Easter Story

1. Palm Sunday (Mk 11:1-11)
2. Last Supper (Lk 22:7-13)
3. Washing of the Feet (Jn 13:1-20)
4. Agony in the Garden (Mt 26:36-46)
5. Betrayal/Arrest (Mt 26:47-56)
6. Peter's Denial (Mk 15:66-72)
7. Jesus' Trial (Mt 26:57-68)
8. Way of the Cross (Lk 23:26-31)
9. Crucifixion (Mt 27:32-55)
10. Burial of Jesus (Lk 23:50-56)
11. Resurrection (Jn 20:1-10)
12. Women at the Tomb (Lk 24:1-12)
13. Emmaus Story (Lk 24:13-35)
14. Thomas Story (Jn 20:24-29)
15. Ascension (Acts 1:6-11)
16. Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)



**St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation Handbook  
Parent/Student Acknowledgment**

*Please return no later than September 22, 2024*

We have read and reviewed the St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation Program Parent/Student Handbook. We understand the rights and responsibilities pertaining to students and agree to support and abide by the rules, guidelines, procedures, and policies of the program.

Family Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_