

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

This group will meet on Sunday mornings from September through May. The details of each grade-level curriculum (Sophia Institute Press and Ignatius Press) are outlined below.

GRADE K

Jesus and the Holy Family: Students are introduced to the loving goodness of Jesus Christ, they meet the members of the Holy Family, and they learn who the saints are and what they teach us. They begin to explore why virtue is good and sin is bad, and the importance of developing good habits. Students learn that they can speak to God in prayer.

GRADE 1

God is Love: Students begin to develop an awareness of God as our Father in Heaven, the creator of Heaven and earth, who is all good, who created them in His image and likeness, and who loves them unconditionally. There is an introduction to the basic parts of the Mass. The reality of sin is further explored in connection with the Sacrament of Confession. Continuing to learn from the lives of saints, they also explore the basics of prayer as a conversation with God.

GRADE 2

Our Life In Jesus: This year focuses on how much children are loved by Jesus Christ, and how his death and Resurrection has opened the way to heaven. Students continue to learn about the parts of the Mass, the lives and lessons of the saints, and more ways to pray. Special focus is placed on the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist this year. ***(Please see the section regarding First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for more information on our Sacramental Preparation program.)***

GRADE 3

The Kingdom of God and the Church: Students learn what the Catholic Church is, who the Holy Spirit is and how He guides Her, and what it means that Jesus continues His mission through Her. Along with the basics of the Trinity and all seven Sacraments, they build on what they have learned about prayer, and explore what it means to live as children of God. They also focus on Jesus' Parables of the Kingdom, and Mary, the Mother of the Church. Includes a supplement on Confirmation for restored order dioceses.

GRADE 4

Jesus Teaches Us How To Live: Most of this year focuses on the moral life, our loving response to God's great gift to us, and students explore more deeply what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God. Students explore conscience formation, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and the Great Commandment. The reality of sin and the necessity of virtue are emphasized.

GRADE 5

The Sacraments: This year provides an in-depth exploration of God's grace in the Sacraments, with a focus on what a Sacrament is and why Jesus instituted them. Students explore what it means that God is the source of all life, learn more about Holy Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, and read and discuss longer biographies of the saints, especially young saints.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Students typically celebrate these Sacraments during the winter and spring of their 2nd grade year. All students, whether they are enrolled in a Catholic school or not, are required to participate in a Parish Sacramental Preparation program. This is separate from their religious education, which they receive either at school or in Faith Formation. Components of this program include an at-home workbook, periodic parent and child meetings at the parish center, and weekend Mass attendance.

PARISH PROGRAM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Renewed: Your Journey to First Reconciliation and ***Received: Your Journey to First Communion***

These programs both feature gorgeous, live-action videos with stunning animations that help communicate the spiritual dimension of the Faith to children in a way that they can easily understand. Programs offer a student workbook, parent online certification, take-with-you Reconciliation and Mass booklets, family activities, and more.



Student workbooks are seamlessly integrated with the videos and include 12 lessons with hands-on activities, prayers, saint connections, main content teaching, Visio Divina, Bible stories, car conversations, take-home activities, discussion questions, and more.



The **Parent's Certification Course** provides 4 short sessions that offer spiritual encouragement and refreshment for parents as well as guidance on how to help their child prepare for these important sacraments. Parents receive a certificate of completion when they finish the course. The course includes a digital Parent's Guide with sections corresponding to every lesson in the students workbook.

QUESTIONS?

What program(s) do I need to register my child for?

Grades K-5: Register for the appropriate grade-level Faith Formation class on Sunday mornings. This is required of all students who do not attend a Catholic school and it is considered their *remote, formational preparation* (religious education). Students enrolled in Catholic school are encouraged, but not required, to enroll in our Sunday morning programs.

Grade 2: Register for the First Holy Communion preparation program. This is not optional, as it is the *proximal, sacramental preparation* and is for all students, whether they are enrolled at a private, public, or Catholic school.

What if my child is in 2nd grade or older but has never had any Sacramental Preparation or Faith Formation?

If you have a child in 2nd grade or older and they have never been enrolled in Faith Formation or Catholic school, please contact Lindsay Sartorio (lsartorio@stpiusxnc.com) or Wendy Barber (wbarber@stpiusxnc.com) in the parish office to ensure they are placed in the appropriate class.