

Faith Formation Program Policies St. John Vianney Catholic Church

Class Attendance

Grades K-5: Sundays, 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

Grades 6-12: Wednesdays, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Please be on time for your respective program. Attendance will be recorded. If you know that your child will be absent, please contact the Director of Faith Formation in advance. Families will be contacted after three absences. An excessive number of absences may warrant a conversation about your child's preparedness for Sacraments. Faithful attendance demonstrates the importance of one's faith formation.

If at any time you are no longer able to continue with the program, please contact the Director of Faith Formation to discuss alternative options or to disenroll.

Program (classroom) rules

1. Come prepared with materials needed for their program (provided by the parish).
2. Refrain from using cell phones during their program. If there is an immediate need to contact a parent/guardian, the child should ask their program leader.
3. Sunday classes: Refrain from chewing gum or eating food during class. If your child needs any accommodations, please indicate this on the registration form. Children may bring their own container of water.
4. Respect leaders and peers. Reports of disciplinary issues will warrant a phone-call home. Continued disciplinary issues will warrant a meeting with the Director of Faith Formation.
5. Be respectful of the space and avoid touching the property within it. If your child damages or takes property that is not theirs, you will be responsible to replace it.

Mass Attendance

Families are expected to attend Mass with their children every Sunday (or Saturday vigil). The celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith— it is where we receive Christ in Word and Sacrament to be nourished and commissioned for the Christian life. This is why we must participate in the Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. For more information, read *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 1322-1327; 2180-2188).

Faith Formation should never stand in the way of Mass. If this poses a strain on your family's schedule, please contact the Director of Faith Formation to help discern an alternate option for faith formation.

Safety Procedures

On Sundays, children in fifth grade and below must be accompanied by a parent to their classroom. The faith formation classes will follow the same emergency procedures as St. John Vianney School.

Safe Environment

All adult volunteers (ages 18+) and employees are required to complete a level II background screening and Safe Environment Training. Parents and children are required to complete the Safe Environment Education Program annually; three options to do so are presented on the registration form (including the opportunity to opt-out). Participants in our program are required to abide by the Policy for the Protection

of Children and Vulnerable Adults, and the Harassment Policy for Non-Employment Situations. These documents are available online.

Communications

Parents/guardians are expected to check their email regularly and follow-up on actionable items. We will exclusively use FlockNote for all group communications. Individual communications will come from sdresen@sjvcc.org, faithformation@sjvcc.org, or 727-360-1147 ext. 201.

Weather related closings

In the event of severe weather— such as a tornado watch/warning, hurricane, etc.— you will be notified that classes are cancelled via text message through our FlockNote group. Please note that if you have opted to receive emails only, this message will go to your email.

COVID-19 procedure updates

Parents are expected to monitor their children’s health and keep them home if they show symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness. If they have been in contact with someone who has shown symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, please contact the office. We no longer require masks for our program.

ACRE Exam

The Diocese of St. Petersburg participates in the National Assessment of Catholic Religious Education (ACRE). This is a standardized test administered to fifth and eighth grade religious education students in the Spring. Preparation will occur in the classroom, however, we encourage families to review at home. This standardized test helps the Diocese and its parishes evaluate its own implementation of their curriculum. The test will not be used to “pass” or “fail” your child. Excessively low scores may be brought to conversation to check for effort. If your child needs accommodations for testing, please contact the Director of Faith Formation.

Sacrament Prep

The Diocese of St. Petersburg requires that youth receiving First Communion, Confirmation, or are entering the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (adapted for youth) have two consecutive years of faith formation, either in a parish program or at a Catholic school, including the year that they will receive these Sacraments.

Curricula

Grades K-1; 3-5: *We Believe, Catholic Identity Edition* (Sadlier)- for your child’s respective grade level

Grade 2: *Blessed, First Reconciliation & Blessed, First Communion* (Dynamic Catholic)

Grades 6-12: Edge, LifeTeen