

ST. JOHN VIANNEY FAITH FORMATION

PARENTS AND PARISH COMMUNITY: A PARTNERSHIP OF FAITH AND GRACE

The day of your child's baptism, the deacon or priest spoke on behalf of the Church the important reminder of the responsibility and privilege entrusted to you by God. Our parish family rejoiced with you then on that day in your child's life. We rejoice with you now as you continue to form your child in the way of faith, hope and love.

The parish community wishes to support you in your role as primary educators in the way of faith, virtue and grace. As a parent you are the ones *"who create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and neighbor in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered."* (Second Vatican Council, Gravissimum Educationis). The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families. It is the privileged place for catechesis of children and parents.

As partners in the process of faith formation together we seek to awaken the faith and sense of belonging to the Catholic Church in children so that they will be moved to share their time, talent and treasure in the life of the Church now and throughout their lives. The aim of catechesis and faith formation is a personal relationship with God characterized by a sacramental life, a lifelong pattern of prayer, Christian service, and growth in understanding the Catholic faith. Committed to this active partnership between clergy, parish staff, catechist and families, we entrust our efforts with confidence to God.

PARISH FAITH FORMATION CURRICULUM

Children in kindergarten participate in a home program one on one with their parents. **Grades 1 to 5** children meet in small groups. **Grade 6 and 7** meet every week on Tuesday evenings in the Church hall in alternating semesters. **Grade 8, 9 and 10** meet on Sunday evenings in the Church hall in alternating semesters. Youth who are attending parochial schools join our program for the preparation of the sacrament of Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation.

First Penance:

Catechesis for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to be conducted separately from catechesis for First Eucharist since each sacrament deserves its own concentrated preparation. Catechesis for penance is to precede First Eucharist and must be kept distinct by a clear and unhurried separation. The immediate preparation occurs for 2nd graders. Catholic school children participate in this preparation.

First Eucharist:

We present our program for preparation of Eucharist in the third grade. Children meet in small groups weekly and once a month as a single large group. There is parent participation, home lessons, liturgical celebrations and other various special activities. This is a full year program culminating in the reception of the Sacrament in May. Catholic school children participate in this preparation.

Confirmation:

Confirmation preparation is a separate catechetical preparation for an individual seeking full membership in the Catholic community. Opportunities are provided for the candidates to explore their own faith through retreats, liturgies, and the study and participation in various forms of prayer. The program extends over a two-year period. Service projects constitute a vital part of the program. Parental involvement and support is vital in building a realistic parish community for youth to prepare to enter after being initiated to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Satisfactory attendance at all religious education classes grades one through eight is a prerequisite for participation.

For Those Students in Catholic Schools: Diocesan guidelines for Confirmation require 2 years of preparation. All sacramental preparation takes place within the parish community, the primary faith community for the young person preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

Therefore, the young people attending Catholic High Schools are also required to receive their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation through their parish program, as it prepares them specifically for the Sacrament and more directly connects them to the life of the parish and their peers. The Confirmation process will begin in Grade 8 with the confirming of our young people at the conclusion of their 9th grade year.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Registration for the Faith Formation Program is open to families who are currently registered parishioners at St. John Vianney. Program registration is required in order for the child to attend faith formation classes. Fees should accompany the registration unless other arrangements have been made with the Pastor or the Faith Formation Office. You may register on the parish website: sjvparish.org. If you prefer to mail in your registration, please download the registration form and send it with your payment.

PARISH FAMILY AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Mass Participation:

As a child's primary catechist it is important that you are faithful and that you worship with your children at a weekend Mass. Class does not take the place of attendance at Mass. "Remember to keep holy the Lord's day" (Exodus 20:8). Attendance at weekly Mass is a divine commandment and a precept of the Church. We go to Mass to worship God with our parish family, in communion with Catholics throughout the world, and to receive His infinite grace, strength and wisdom in the Eucharist.

Parent Meeting Attendance:

St John Vianney strives to fulfill its mission of partnership with you in the faith formation of your child. Parent meetings are necessary to facilitate ongoing and authentic communication. They are scheduled sparingly out of respect for your valuable and often limited time. Your participation is a vital and integral part of information.

Student Behavior:

Students are expected to be courteous and display respectful Christian attitude toward catechists and feelings. Additionally, students are expected to respect Church property. Parents are responsible for damages incurred. If a behavior problem persists, other accommodations will need to be made. Students are expected to be present and on time for all instruction, special celebrations and related activities prepared for them. If an absence is necessitated for a serious or unusual reason, either the teacher or the Coordinator must have a prior notice from the parents or the guardians.

Note: necessary absence is not one occasioned by participation in another regular activity. Normally, no more than two absences are allowed. An absence problem will be considered in class placement for the next year.

SAFE ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

As mandated by the United States Conference of Bishops and in cooperation with the Office of Education and Compliance with the Diocese of Providence, all St. John Vianney Parish employees and volunteers receive Safe Environment Training to ensure that all young people in our parish come to know God and His Church in a safe and appropriate setting. The Diocese of Providence also requires mandatory background criminal investigations for those who work with children and young people. Only those who successfully pass a background check are permitted to serve as volunteers. The Office of Education and Compliance impartially investigates each and every complaint received.

For further information, please contact Kevin O'Brien
Director, Office of Compliance, 80 St. Mary's Drive, Cranston, RI 02920,
401-941-0760, kobriendioceseofprovidence.org.

CIRCLE OF GRACE

In 2010 the Diocese of Providence mandated the "Circle of Grace" curriculum to be presented to all children enrolled in religious education programs throughout the Diocese. The "Circle of Grace" curriculum teaches children and youth about relevant issues such as, all human persons are sacred and deserving of respect and dignity and the importance of establishing healthy and safe personal boundaries. It introduces important vocabulary so your child can effectively and confidently express their concerns or violations of their personal safety.

For further information, please contact Dr. Michael Hansen at the Diocesan Outreach and Prevention Office, 80 St. Mary's Drive, Cranston, Rhode Island, RI 02920, 401-946-0728, mhansendioceseofprovidence.org

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Our parish adopts, implements and enforces the diocesan code of ethical conduct for the protection of children.

COMMUNICATION

It is important that we have the most up-to-date contact information. If during the year your contact information changes, please notify the Faith Formation staff immediately. This includes home or cell phone and the designated person to call should we not be able to reach you in an emergency. Pertinent information concerning child custody must be shared with the Director.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

If Cumberland public schools have been cancelled the day of class due to inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances, faith formation classes are automatically canceled. Additional announcements of cancellations will be made on all local Rhode Island radio and television stations as well as post on their news websites.

MEDICAL/ALLERGY INFORMATION

Please be certain to list on the registration form all medical/allergy information about child. It is important to inform the Director of any medical changes that occur during the year.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please make the catechetical leader aware of any special academic, behavioral or environmental accommodations your child may require.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any additional questions, or if we can be of assistance at any time, please feel free to contact us at **401-333-2347**.