

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Religious Education Office

June 8, 2023

Dear Parents,

Our faith is about relationship, which is expressed through our relationship with God, with Jesus, with each other, and, most especially, with our families. The Diocese has asked us to look at HOW we do faith formation. I am attaching a link to a video to better explain this to you. PLEASE, WATCH THE VIDEO. It will save a lot of questions if you watch it first.

Below, I will provide an outline for the year of how we will proceed. This is meant to help you remember what the video says. You will see this all reflected in our calendars for the year as well.

1. Families come together (parent/s and children) for **Kindergarten through 5th Grade**. You will be placed in one of three groups and given the dates for your “monthly” meetings. You will still choose between Sunday (10:15-11:10 am) and Tuesday (5:30-6:30 pm).
2. These activities are more about helping you learn how to share your faith with your child and will be more active in nature. The Catechists are there to guide and support. You will be working with your own children. You will use the **Gospel Weeklies** (our pamphlets) at home the rest of the time and turn in the “assessments” for attendance and credit. This allows you to cater to your family’s schedule.
3. **Children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist** (Eucharist 2 students which means that they completed Eucharist 1 during 2022-23): We will begin sessions MUCH earlier, and you will be pulled from your regular group meeting. (I will still give you the fun activity!) The WHOLE family will prepare with the child to receive the sacraments. Again, that schedule is attached just under the “monthly” schedule. Please note the dates for the parent meeting, First Reconciliation, Eucharist Retreat, Eucharist Practice, and First Eucharist.
4. **Sixth Grade (Pre-Confirmation), Confirmation 1 and Confirmation 2** will meet a little more often AND their time schedule will be extended to an hour and a half. You will have this schedule up front for planning purposes. (This is actually why it’s taken so long to get this information out! It was a LOT of work!) They will still attend EDGE (again, schedule attached) and XLT Adoration. We invite the whole family to XLT! **They will each have a retreat. (Pre-Confirmation will be on an EDGE night.)**

5. Confirmation Year 2: They do have extra activities such as Fired Up Confirmation Conference, Confirmation Practice, and Confirmation Mass itself. I do not have the date yet for Confirmation and, therefore, haven't scheduled the practice. It will be early March, most likely after March 9th which is Fired Up. I can guarantee that it won't be March 30th as that is Holy Saturday. ALL THESE EVENTS ARE MANDATORY!

6. Children ABOVE 3rd grade who need "Special Formation" for Reconciliation and Eucharist: We have a new book this year! I am actually very excited about this. It is six lessons for preparation to be done at home. I haven't set up that schedule yet, but I will. It will be a little more flexible because it is being done at home. You will still need to attend the parent meeting, First Reconciliation, Eucharist Retreat, Eucharist Practice, and First Eucharist. You can find all those dates on the back of the yearly calendar.

I know that starting new things is unsettling, but every parish around us is doing the same thing. We are all working out how to do this best in our individual parishes. Please, stick with me. We will get through it together and adjust the following year. In the words of Dory ("Finding Nemo"), just keep swimming! I'm here with you.

I value my relationship with all of you and look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Peace,

Shannon Langer
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