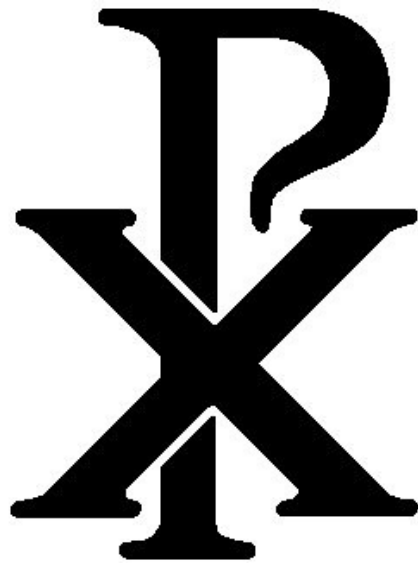


HANDBOOK FOR
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH
FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation Policies

Attendance

Regular attendance is expected of all students. Parents are to call the Faith Formation Office at 289-2427 at least ½ hour before class if it is known that a student will be absent or tardy. If a student has an unexcused absence, parents may be called to determine whether or not they know of the absence. If more than 6 classes are missed by a 1st through 5th grade student in a year, or 3 classes for students in 6th -10th grade, the student will be required to repeat the year.

Discipline

Any student who is consistently uncooperative or disruptive during Faith Formation classes will be removed from the class to do individual work. The second time this occurs, the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted to discuss further involvement (i.e., change of behavior, teach at home, parent attend class with the student, etc.) If the discipline problem is not resolved, the student will be removed from the program for the year.

Guests/Visitors

All visitors who attend class with registered Faith Formation students must check in with the Director of Faith Formation before class begins. Those who visit on a regular basis (more than 3 sessions) will need to bring a permission slip from a parent or guardian, register and pay tuition.

Faith Sharing Centers

Since it is our desire to enable you, as the parent, to be fully involved in your child's faith formation, we have Parent/Child Faith Sharing Centers for each grade that must be attended by a parent and child together. These are interactive activities that are shared, drawing on materials that the child is studying in the classroom environment. Specialized Advent and Lent Faith Sharing Centers are also available for certain grades per year. These centers are set up in McCarthy Hall during Faith Formation times and take about 1 to 1 ½ hours to complete.

Sacramental Policy

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist:

Attendance in 1st and 2nd grade in the St. Francis of Assisi Faith Formation program, or if an older child, 2 consecutive years of attendance in age appropriate classes.

Furnish a copy of child's Baptismal Certificate.

See Guidelines for Sacramental Preparation for further requirements.

Confirmation:

Attendance in 9th and 10th grade in the St. Francis of Assisi Faith Formation program.

Furnish a copy of child's Baptismal Certificate.

See Guidelines for Sacramental Preparation for further requirements.

Parking Lot Protocol

Arrival Procedures - Cars Entering to Drop Off Students

Cars entering to drop off students must enter from of 11th Avenue SE (Driveway #1) and exit onto 11th Avenue SE (Driveway #2) or 3rd Street SE (Driveway #3).

Cars must stay in line. Do not pass other cars dropping off students.

Students must walk in front of the car they are exiting.

Cars should stop to drop off students in front of the school entrance before they turn left to exit the lot.

Arrival Procedures – Cars Desiring to Park

Cars must enter the lot through Driveway #1 and park on the main body of the parking lot.

Cars must exit the lot by joining in the line of cars exiting out of Driveway #2 onto 11th Avenue SE.

Note: First Grade parents must accompany their children into the school entry before classes and must pick them up in the school entry after classes.

Dismissal Procedure

Dismissal procedure is the same as arrival procedure; enter thru Driveway #1 and exit thru Driveways #2 or #3.

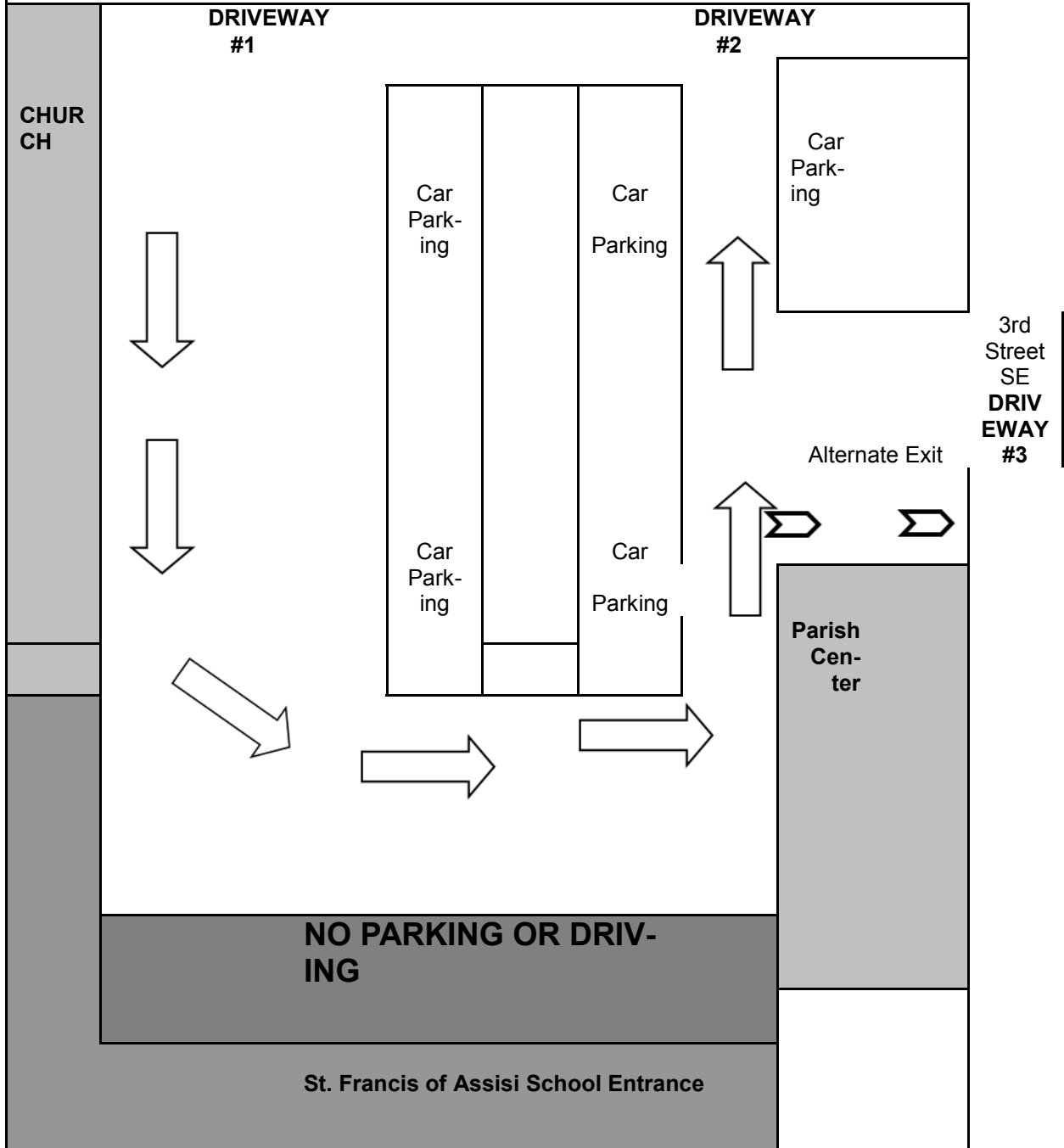
Students waiting for pick-up must remain in the school entrance or on the sidewalk in front of the school entrance. ***No horseplay by waiting students will be allowed.***

If everyone follows this parking lot protocol, we will ensure the safety of our children.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH PARKING LOT DIAGRAM

11th Avenue SE



Class Directory

Sunday School

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Faith Formation Classes – Grades 1–10

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass

Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Mass
Wednesday, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Sunday School and Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sunday School is a program for children 3 to 5 years of age. Sunday School is held during the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass.

The children in this program learn they are loved and created by God. They also learn about the many gifts each person has and are taught to affirm each other's gifts. Stories from Scripture are told and traditions of our Catholic faith are shared.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (Sunday Story) is a program for all children in first, second and third grade. It is held during the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass. The children are dismissed during the Mass for an age-appropriate interactive Liturgy of the Word. During this time, the children learn how Scripture lessons apply to their daily lives. Emphasis is placed on how Liturgy belongs to everyone at every age.

Faith Formation

Faith Formation classes are for all St. Francis of Assisi parish children, grades 1 through 10, who attend public schools.

Cancellation of Faith Formation Classes

If winter weather gets bad and classes have to be cancelled, cancellations will be announced on all of the Rochester radio stations. It is an automatic cancellation of classes if children are sent home early from school or if school has been cancelled for that day.



SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Each year of Faith Formation class builds on the previous year. Described below are the general focus and topics for each grade level. It is hoped that awareness of what your child is learning will help you to reinforce in your home what is discussed during structured class time.

The Elementary Program

Grade 1: Primary emphasis is on getting to know God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Family. There is an introduction to terms of the church and learning traditional prayers (Hail Mary, Our Father, Glory Be).

Grade 2: Sacramental preparation is of primary focus. First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are celebrated along with reviewing prayers. The Act of Contrition is learned in second grade. Besides being a year of Sacramental preparation, the students learn that God gives us everything we need, who God is, and what Jesus shares with us each week at Mass. They learn about the Mass as a sacrifice and what God wants from us.

Grade 3: One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church is the focus for this grade. The children are introduced to the Apostles Creed and learn about their faith community's history.

Grade 4: Curriculum focus is on the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments and making moral decisions. Scripture activities are used to reinforce community service and how we each follow Jesus.

Grade 5: Fifth Graders will be learning the New Testament and traditional Catholic prayers.

Junior and Senior High Program

Grade 6: This year is devoted to the Old Testament, the history of our Jewish ancestors and their celebration of faith.

Grade 7: *Jesus' Message and Mission* retold through Gospel story challenge young people to embrace a more mature understanding of Jesus and the call of Christian discipleship.

Grade 8: *Church History* and *Sacraments* help youth become better acquainted with the roots of our Christian beliefs. Through the exploration of our basic church history and how we build a relationship with God through the sacraments, youth will gain a better understanding of their faith.

Grade 9: *Jesus* and *Morality* focus on building a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer. Youth will also explore the Mystery of the Holy Trinity, forgiveness and Reconciliation and a process for making good decisions as a Christian.

Grade 10: Youth will concentrate on preparing for their new role as confirmed, adult members of the church. They will discover ways to carry out the teachings of Jesus, how to continue living as faithful Christians and focus on the sacrament of Confirmation.

Guidelines for Sacramental Preparation

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Requirements

The reception of the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are an important part of your child's initiation into the Catholic Church. They are beautiful expressions of faith and not to be entered into routinely. Your involvement as a parent or guardian is of special importance in helping to prepare your child to receive these sacraments and in continuing your child's involvement in learning about their faith. The parents(s) or guardian(s) are responsible for fulfilling the following requirements.

Parent(s) or guardian(s) must be registered members of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

At least one parent or guardian must attend each family orientation meeting.

At least one parent or guardian must attend each Faith Formation Sharing Center.

At least one parent or guardian must attend the First Eucharist rehearsal with their child.

Parent(s) or guardian(s) must work with the child in the home workbooks and help the child to memorize the required prayers.

No sacraments will be forced upon or refused to those suitably prepared for them. If a parent, the Faith Formation Director or the pastor determines that a child is not ready, they will be invited again the following year to celebrate the sacrament. Suitable preparation will be provided.

Confirmation Requirements

The choice to be confirmed must be made by the candidate and it is their responsibility for fulfilling the requirements listed below. If the choice is made not to fulfill these requirements, the young person's name will be withdrawn from the Confirmation program.

Personal desire on the part of the young person to be confirmed.

Knowledge of the Catholic faith and a desire to live it, displayed in weekly Mass attendance, service to others, and every day living and attitude.

Attendance at all sessions in preparation for Confirmation. If more than three (3) classes are missed during the year, candidates will need to make arrangements on an individual basis with the Confirmation Coordinator.

Service amounting to 3 projects of preparation. After participating in service activities, candidates will need to submit a written "Service Report and Evaluation" sheet to the Confirmation Coordinator in order to receive credit for that activity.

Attendance at a retreat each year. The parish will sponsor the retreat for each year of the Confirmation preparation.

Candidates are to ask one person to be their sponsor. This person must be a confirmed, actively practicing Catholic, over 16 years of age, who is trying to live out their faith. A sponsor may not be the candidate's mother, father or sibling. It is recommended that the sponsor be one of the baptismal Godparents. If this is not possible, another person can be selected, preferably a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Candidates will be asked to write a letter to the Bishop stating their desire to be confirmed.

Candidates will meet one on one for a brief interview with a member of the parish staff in the years that Confirmation will take place.

Candidates will be asked to write a brief paper about their chosen Confirmation Saint.

Prayers

One building block used to grow in knowledge each year is memorized prayer. All of these prayers may be found in the (blue) Catholic Devotional Books. Below are suggested prayers to learn at the elementary grade level.

1st Grade: Sign of the Cross
Hail Mary
Our Father

2nd Grade: Sign of the Cross
Hail Mary
Our Father
Act of Contrition:

O my God, I am sorry for my sins.
In choosing to sin, and failing to do good,
I have sinned against You and Your Church.
I firmly intend, with the help of Your Son,
To make up for my sins and to love as I should.

Amen

3rd Grade: Sign of the Cross
Hail Mary
Our Father
Act of Contrition
Blessings before meals

4th Grade: Sign of the Cross
Hail Mary
Our Father
Act of Contrition
Beatitudes
Ten Commandments

5th Grade: Sign of the Cross
Hail Mary
Our Father
Act of Contrition
Beatitudes
Ten Commandments
Seven Sacraments
Apostles Creed

