



## Faith Formation Program 2025-2026 Policies

### ***Mission Statement***

*The mission of the Faith Formation program at Holy Spirit Parish is to help all participants and their families develop a relationship with Jesus Christ and to live out their Catholic faith in ways that draw others to Christ and the Church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children. (CCC #2252)*

### **Attendance Policy**

Faith Formation classes will meet starting September 7, 2025 until May 17, 2026. Classes are held in MCPS Holy Spirit Elementary School. A family must be registered parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish and attending weekly Mass at the parish. Parents are highly encouraged to make every effort to have their children attend our religious education classes. If your child is to be absent, please let your child's catechist know. If a child misses several classes, we may contact your family to assess the circumstances and how we can help you.

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

Class times are from 9:30am-10:30am on Sundays. Please drop your child off, *before* class begins. The doors will open at 9:15am and pick up is promptly at 10:30am. **The students will be brought out to the front of the school (by the flagpole) for dismissal. To respect the catechists and those attending 11am Mass, it is important to pick up on time at 10:30am! Please do not be late.**

### **Pick Up Authorization**

Only those listed on the authorized pick-up section of the registration form will be allowed to pick up your child. If you need to add another person to the list during the year, please submit their information to the PCL. **Pick up is outside the school by the flagpole.**

### **Student Behavior and Expectations**

Students will be expected to show respect to their teachers and classmates. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Classroom rules are discussed in each classroom. At the first disruption, the child will be directed to review the classroom rules. After the second incident, the child will be sent to talk with the PCL. If disruptive behavior continues, the parent/guardian will be contacted.

### **Statement on Gender Identity**

While the student is enrolled at this parish, he/she will respect Catholic teachings concerning human sexuality and Faith. The student will conduct him/herself in accord with his/her sex at birth, at all times during class time.

### **Class Cancellation**

In the event that class is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances or inclement weather, an email will be sent out as soon as possible alerting families of the cancellation. We will also post on our Holy Spirit Facebook page as well as post physical notes on the door, when able.

### **Wellness Policy**

Please keep your children at home if they are running a fever or had a fever within the last 24 hours, has an excessive or productive cough, vomiting or diarrhea, or any type of contagious or communicable disease. If a child becomes sick during class time, we will contact the parent/guardian for early pickup.

### **Extended Absence or Withdrawal from Program**

Please inform the PCL with a written note in the event a child is to be withdrawn from the program or is to be absent from class for an extended period. The parish will work with families who are experiencing special circumstances.

### **Family Commitment**

Parents/guardians are the first catechist in a child's Catholic faith. Parents/guardians must promise to support their children in the following ways:

- Attend Weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation with their children.
- Attend 75% of religious education classes for the whole year or make up the class work as needed when absent.
- Practice my faith and be an example to my family.
- Attend any religious education parent meetings or sacramental preparation meetings.
- Work with my children with learning their prayers.
- Provide a New American bible and other Catholic reading materials at home for faith-based learning.

### **Sacraments**

- First Reconciliation is prepared for and celebrated first semester of 2nd grade (during regular FF classes).
- First Communion is prepared for and celebrated second semester of 2nd grade (during regular FF classes).
- Confirmation is celebrated in the fall of 11th grade. There is a year of preparation beginning in January of their 10th grade year. We meet monthly on Sunday nights. Please contact the PCL for more information. A separate Confirmation Registration is needed.
- Parent meetings for these sacraments will be held to give you more information.
- If your child is in need of these sacraments out of these scheduled preparation years, we have options. One of those is our RCIA adapted for children class. Please contact the PCL if your child is in need. There will be a separate parent meeting for the RCIA adapted for children class, preparation begins in January.

### **Volunteers**

Our catechists have completed/ or working on their catechist certification through the Archdiocese of Mobile's John Paul II Certification process. This is a two-year certification process that the archdiocese requires for all volunteers that teach religious education throughout the diocese. We also have certified Catechesis of the Good Shepherd catechists in our Level I & Level II atriums. Parish volunteers have also completed Child Protection Training through the Archdiocese of Mobile with a completed background check. All volunteers must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.

### **Communication**

Communication from the Faith Formation Office will primarily come in the form of:

- Emails.
- Website.
- Facebook page.
- Bulletin.

If you have questions, please contact:

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334-277-1989 (office)