



# **Faith Formation Family Handbook**

*Grades KG-5th*



2021-2022 Catechetical Year

## ***Introduction***

“Parents are the most influential agents of catechesis for their children (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 2222-2226). They have a unique responsibility for the education of their children; they are the first educators, or catechists. They catechize primarily by the witness of the Christian lives and by their love for the faith” (*National Directory for Catechesis*, pg. 234).

In the Scriptures, God commands parents to educate their children in faith: “Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children” (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).

Parents catechize their children primarily through the lived experience of the faith and through conversations often brought about by specific occasions. The parish Faith Formation program exists in order to support you in your role as the primary catechists of your household by providing a systematic presentation of the basics of the Catholic faith. When this systematic presentation resonates with the child’s lived experience of the faith in the home, it becomes deeply meaningful and lasts a lifetime.

The presentation of the faith in a gathered setting requires certain policies and guidelines to ensure a smooth program operation. St Louis de Montfort Parish Faith Formation policies and guidelines are contained in these few pages. Please read them over and use them as a reference throughout the catechetical year.

## ***Contact Information***

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child’s participation in our program, please contact us and we will be happy to discuss your questions or concerns.

### **Director of Faith and Family Formation**

Christine Meugniot

805.937.8363

christine@sldm.org

### **Social Media**

Facebook: St Louis de Montfort Faith and Family Formation

**Website:** [www.sldm.org](http://www.sldm.org)

## ***Communications Regarding Religious Education***

### **Email**

This will be our main form of communication to ensure you receive all information regarding faith formation in a timely manner.

### **Website**

www.sldm.com - The website is an important form of communication that we use regularly. It contains all forms and paperwork pertaining to our faith formation program and

sacramental preparation as well as information on parish events.

### **Social Media**

Our Facebook account serves a twofold purpose: 1) provides a quick and easy way to remind our families about special events and schedule changes, and 2) serves as a forum for the parish to provide parents with information related to parenting, child and teenage trends, and personal formation.

### **Parish Bulletin**

Weekly parish bulletins are an important source of information about our faith formation program for children and youth. The upcoming calendar is posted there as well as any special announcements or reminders.

### **Calendar**

A yearly faith formation calendar is included on the last page beginning with the first class of the catechetical year in September and will also be available on the parish website ([www.sldm.org](http://www.sldm.org)). Updates and information about special events will be sent home as needed. Please keep the calendar for reference throughout the year.

## **Curriculum**

### **Purpose and Guidelines**

The goal and purpose of all catechesis is to **support** parents in their task of forming their children into disciples of Jesus Christ and life-long active members of His Church. In a continuing effort to do this, the faith formation program of the parish attempts to propose the beliefs of the Catholic faith in a comprehensive and systematic way through instruction and active participation as well as providing special prayer opportunities throughout the year.

### **Textbooks**

Students use the curriculum provided by St Mary's Press "Discover: Finding Faith in Life." The sacramental preparation program includes St Mary's Press "Go, Seek, Find".

## **Sacrament Years and Records**

### **Baptismal and First Communion Certificates**

A copy of a child's baptismal certificate is **REQUIRED** for a child who is preparing for their First Communion (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade as well as any older student who missed the opportunity in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade). Please submit this information at registration so we have verification. *(All sacramental records are kept on file in the office of the parish where the sacrament was received, and parishes will mail the certificate(s) to a parent if you call and request one.)*

### **First Reconciliation and First Communion**

Second grade is the usual grade for children to receive these sacraments. Children must attend faith formation in First and Second grade in order to receive these sacraments. Parent meetings, home preparation, regular attendance at faith formation classes, and regular attendance at Mass are required. If your child was not baptized in the Catholic Church, please inform us immediately so that we can facilitate his/her reception of these sacraments.

### **Celebration of Sacraments**

Please remember to keep the Sacrament as the center of your celebration. As your child receives First Reconciliation and First Communion, remember that receiving the sacraments of the Church is entirely about your child's growth in faith and the relationship s/he shares with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. Please keep these special days in the life of your son and daughter holy by showing reverence to the Sacrament being received. If you feel your child is not ready to receive a sacrament, please call us. Families will receive information on meetings, home preparation, dress requirements, etc. Full and Active Participation is expected for sacramental preparation programs.

### **Family Days**

Family Days are unique opportunities for families of ALL AGES to come together to learn more about their faith through prayer, activities and fellowship with other families. You are ENCOURAGED to bring your entire family for a fun-filled Sunday afternoon offered throughout the year. Check the calendar and watch your emails and the parish website for more information.

### **Parent Opportunities**

Throughout the year, the parish provides many opportunities for parent's to enrich their faith in an adult setting. These opportunities include guest presenters, parish missions and talks, and other organized events. Parents are required to attend **at least one event** but as many as possible. These are for you. Our learning and understanding of our faith is LIFELONG!

### **Volunteering**

All grades on both Wednesdays and Thursdays are ALWAYS in need of volunteers. Check with your child's teacher. The teacher AND your child would LOVE to have you in the class. Remember, the teachers are also volunteers and in most cases, do not have children in the program. They just have a love of our faith and the children.

## ***Program Policies and Guidelines***

### **Sunday Worship**

Sunday Mass is a vital component of every Catholic's formation, whether they are children or adults. Weekly Mass attendance as a family is critical for effective faith development and community building. During faith formation sessions the children are being taught the importance of participating in the liturgy and need to have an opportunity to do this. They will be asked to show their participation and attendance at Mass using the Mass coins.

### **Empowering God's Children - Child Protection Policy**

The Diocese of Los Angeles and St Louis de Montfort Parish take your child's safety seriously. Each Catechist and Volunteer is fingerprinted and MUST attend the Archdiocese mandated SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN course offered throughout the year. Annually, a review of this policy is presented to our Catechists and volunteers.

### **Attendance**

Children are encouraged to attend all sessions. Thank you in advance for your efforts to prioritize faith formation amidst busy family schedules. When planning family trips, please check the calendar to see when classes are not in session.

### **Absences**

Occasionally, a child will be unable to attend due to sickness or for other reasons. If your child is absent from faith formation class, we will assume that you, as a parent, have determined that your child(ren) is/are unable to attend for a valid reason; you do not need to call the Director with a reason unless you prefer to do so for your own peace of mind. Students are responsible for covering the material that they miss with their parents. There should be no more than four absences during the catechetical year. If absenteeism becomes a problem, the Director will contact the parents.

### **Illness or Injury Outside of Faith Formation**

If your child is ill or unable to attend class for any other reason, please do not send him or her to class. If your child will not be in attendance at faith formation class for an extended time due to illness or injury, please let us know, and we will make arrangements for him/her to remain current with his/her class.

### **During Faith Formation Classes**

#### **Arrival**

Please do not bring your children to class before 10 minutes before class unless instructed otherwise. The majority of our catechists have jobs and families that prohibit them from arriving before the scheduled time and they are also preparing the classroom. When arriving, parents with children in grades K-3 should walk their children to the classroom. Please be sure to sign your child in and out of class. Then those children may walk to their classrooms.

#### **Tardy Arrival and Building Security**

Please make every effort for your child to arrive on time as tardiness is disruptive and causes the student to miss important announcements.

#### **Behavior and the Code of Conduct**

We expect all of the children in attendance to behave in a respectful manner toward all other students and toward all adults.

#### **Dismissal**

##### **Early Dismissal**

If your child must leave early, a dated and signed note must be brought in that day. Your child may not leave the building until you come to the classroom to sign her or him out. Children will not be permitted to wait in the parking lot for early dismissal. Do not make this a regular habit.

### ***Conclusion***

We exist to help you catechize your family. Please do not hesitate to contact the Director if you need resources or support, or if you have any questions or concerns.



# FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR 2021-2022



Faith Formation classes will be held in the hall, upper room, Room 2,

## SEPTEMBER

Sept 15 First Day of Faith Formation Classes  
3:45-5:00 pm  
Sept 16 First Day of Faith Formation Classes  
6:00-7:15 pm

## OCTOBER

Oct 20/27 Empowering God's Children during  
class  
Oct 27 Family Day 12:30-2 Hall  
Oct 21/28 Empowering God's Children during  
class

## NOVEMBER

Nov 10/11 No class  
Nov 14 Family Day 12:30-2 Hall  
November 17 Parent's Reconciliation  
Meeting from 6-7pm. More info to follow  
Nov 24/25 No Faith Formation Classes  
Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER

Dec 3/4 Classes RESUME  
Dec 8/9 Confessions for 3rd-5th during class  
Dec 12 Family Day 12:30-2  
Dec 22/23 No Faith Formation Classes  
Christmas break

## JANUARY

Jan 5/6 No Faith Formation Classes  
Christmas break  
Jan 12/13 Classes RESUME  
Jan 29 First Reconciliation at 9:30  
Jan 30 Family Day 12:30-2 Hall

## FEBRUARY

Feb 9 Parent's Eucharist meeting from 6-7pm.  
More info to follow  
Feb 27 Family Day 12:30-2 Hall

## MARCH

Mar 2 Ash Wednesday 4:15 Ashes during  
class. More info to follow  
Mar 5 First Communion Retreat 9—11:00  
ALL children receiving First Eucharist this  
year  
Mar 9/10 Confessions during class time for  
2nd-5th gr  
Mar 16/17 No classes Religious Education  
Congress

## APRIL

April 3 Family Day ALL DAY to attend  
Transformation Stations as a family which  
will take about 45 minutes  
Apr 13/14/20/21 No Faith Formation Classes  
Holy Week and Spring break  
Apr 27/28 Classes RESUME  
Apr 29/30 First Communion Rehearsals  
During Class Times

\*\*Watch for information regarding Vacation  
Bible Camp registration held June 20-24

## MAY

May 4/5 First Communion rehearsals during  
class  
May 7 First Communion Mass 9:30 am and  
11:30 am  
May 11/12 Last Day of Class

## JUNE

**Questions? Contact Christine at  
805.937.8363 or Christine@sldm.org**