



CORPUS CHRISTI
PARISH COMMUNITY

Corpus Christi Parish Faith Formation Grades PreK-6 Policies and Guidelines

Overview and purpose of Faith Formation

Parishioners in grades PreK-6 enroll in the Faith Formation program to immerse themselves in a well-rounded educational experience of a faith that is both learned and lived.

Faith formation aims to form young people into articulate, Christ-like individuals who are able to be active disciples as young people as well as adults in their future. Corpus Christi offers traditional classes twice a month where students are instructed by parish volunteers in classes of no more than 15 students. **Attendance is taken during each class, and students should not miss more than 2 classes each year.** Adult volunteers undergo a background check as well as Virtus training to ensure a safe environment. Adolescent and adult volunteers are trained in Catholic beliefs, basic classroom skills, and safety protocols.

In addition to classes, a monthly family event is offered to children and their families. Past family events have included, but are not limited to; Rosary Making, Gratitude/Service night, Trunk or Treat, Family Teaching Mass, Prayer Night, and Parents Night Out. **Families are required to sign up for and attend a minimum of 7 family events throughout the year. Sign ups take place via Sign Up Genius posted on the parish website. Please select your 7 family events no later than October 15th.** There are also additional family events that will be coordinated by other ministries of the parish such as Family Ministry, and Music Ministry, these events are also eligible for credit towards a families 7 event goal. Options for family events range from 15 - 20 events to choose from each year.

Times of both Classes and Events are generally structured around the Sunday Mass times of the Parish. Masses are Saturdays at 5:00 PM,

and Sundays at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Weekly Mass attendance is an essential aspect of one's lived experience of the Catholic faith. Catholics need the Eucharist each week to grow spiritually.

Faith Formation for grades PreK-6 has four required components;

1. Weekly family Mass participation
2. Parent Meeting (September 25th 10:30 AM or 5:30 PM)
3. Faith Formation sessions (Sundays 8:00 - 8:55, 10:00 - 10:55 or Mondays 4:15-5:15)
4. Monthly Family Events (Families must attend 7 events each year, please select your events via Sign Up Genius by October 15th)

Grades 1 and 2

Grades 1 and 2 are a dedicated time of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Celebrating the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time should be an integral part of the ongoing religious experience of a child. Receiving First Communion further initiates a child into the life of the Christian community. The Diocese of Paterson requires that children prepare for these Sacraments for a period of two years.

Faith Formation for grade 2 has six required components;

1. Weekly family Mass participation
2. Faith Formation Sessions (Sundays 8:00 - 8:55, 10:00 - 10:55 or Mondays 4:15-5:15)
3. Parents Meeting for Reconciliation / Communion Prep (November 3rd at 7:00 PM)
4. First Reconciliation rehearsal and Sacrament (January 24th or 25th 7:00 PM)
5. Communion retreat (February 26th or March 19th)
6. First Communion rehearsal and Sacrament (May 6th or 13th)

FAQs

1. What if my child missed first grade? Can they still make Communion in grade 2 with their classmates?

Communion preparation in the Diocese of Paterson is a two year process. At Corpus Christi, this typically takes place during the first and second grade. If your child did not attend faith formation in grade 1, contact Brigette by August 15th for 1st grade make up work so your child can receive Communion with their classmates. If contact is made after August 15th it may be best for the child to enroll in grade 1 as a 2nd grader and then receive First Communion when they're in 3rd grade.

2. Do we have to attend Mass when there's no class or an event?

Yes. Participating in Mass weekly is essential for Catholics. At Mass we are fed spiritually by the Eucharist, the Word and the community that we belong to. Keeping the sabbath Holy is a vital part of being a disciple. Mass times are also arranged for the convenience of the parishioners and their schedules. We grow by living out our faith with means participating in Mass and living a life of mercy, justice and God's love.

3. Why Is participation in the Faith Formation program required after First Communion?

Communion is just ONE of the many special moments in the life of a Catholic. Continuing catechesis beyond this time helps a child better live out and articulate their faith on a level that is appropriate for their age and grade level. Learning about our faith isn't a one or two year process, but rather a lifelong journey.

4. Can my child study remotely or at home?

Home study is offered only in extenuating circumstances. If you are in need of this accommodation, please reach out to Brigette.

5. How do I sign up for family events? How many are required?

You can easily sign up for family events on the parish website, corpuschristi.org using the tab “Family Event Sign Up”. This will link you to the Sign Up Genius for the events that are coordinated by the Brigette and the Faith Formation program. Please select your events for the year by October 15th. There will be other events throughout the year that are coordinated by other ministries, these events will have a clipboard sign in sheet by the parish office. **Seven events are required**, several will be offered each month so in total, over 18 events will be offered throughout the year.

6. How can I help or volunteer?

1. Catechists are always needed. Each class needs at least one catechist, you're also able to teach with another parent you know and trade weeks, teach together, etc. Training is provided at various meetings. New volunteers working with children need to attend a VIRTUS training session as well as complete a background check. Catechists can be as young as juniors in high school.
2. Each Family event needs a few parent volunteers, from 3-5 adults to help plan and coordinate the event with Brigette. You can volunteer for one event, or as many as you'd like.
3. Email Brigette, as we always need subs, or mid week help during the day in the office, there's no shortage of things that we need help with.

7. How many classes can my child miss?

No more than two. After the first absence please email Brigette for makeup work at BVohden@corpuschristi.org. This work is to be completed by the following week.

8. Can my child make up a class during another session?

Yes, please email Brigette to coordinate this.

9. How is pick up and drop off handled for classes?

- Children are encouraged to walk to their classes independently once they've learned where their classroom is. They use the main 1st floor hallway of the Gingham Giraffe Preschool and proceed up the stairs at the end of the hall if their classroom is upstairs. The stairwell at the gym entrance is closed for drop off for security reasons. Students are asked to wait in the hall until their teacher arrives.
- Dismissal takes place outside of the main gym doors where **students and teachers wait until a parent or guardian has exited their car and entered the safe coned area to pick up their child. Children will not be permitted to walk to a parked car unattended.**

10. When are sign ups for First Communion?

Sign ups for Communion Masses will coincide with the November 3rd parent meeting at 7:00 PM. Communion Masses are Mother's Day weekend and the following weekend, Mass times are 12:00 noon and 2:00 PM.

11. What are the Faith Formation classes all about?

Faith Formation classes will cover basic Catholic beliefs and practices. Each grade has a different focus, for example, grade 4 is the 10 Commandments and grade 6 is the Old Testament. Regardless of the main theme of the grade, classes will always incorporate prayer, liturgical seasons, Saints, Catholic traditions and faith sharing discussions.

The curriculum for these classes was developed using the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the guidelines provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Diocese of Paterson.

12. What if my family is unable to cover the cost of registration?

No family should ever go without faith formation because of cost, all are welcome. Please reach out to Brigette and or Fr. Kevin if you are in need of financial assistance for faith formation.