



Parent Handbook

Welcome to the Disciple Maker Formation Program, serving Resurrection, St. Lawrence, and St. Peter Parishes. It is our privilege to help you share our Catholic faith with your children. This handbook was designed to give parents and guardians basic information about our program. If you have a question or concern at any time, please contact us using the contact information at the end of this handbook.

ROLE OF PARENTS

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children (*Catechism of the Catholic Church 1653*). The home is where a child first experiences the Catholic faith. You teach by example and word. It is extremely important for children to experience the love of God in their homes. The Disciple Maker Formation program aims to work in partnership with parents to assist them in living their vocation as educators of their children. This program should merely complement, not replace, the catechesis that your children are already receiving in the home. The Disciple Maker Formation program assists parents in their God-given role as educators of the faith by:

- Providing religious education classes for children in a classroom setting.
- Providing opportunities to receive the sacraments of Confession, First Eucharist, and Confirmation
- Providing the truth of the Catholic faith as handed down by Jesus Christ through Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, the Magisterium (teaching authority) of the Church, and the Church Fathers.

All Christian education finds its source within the sacramental life of the Church. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that children are given the opportunity for frequent participation in the Sacrament of Penance and weekly Sunday attendance at Holy Mass. Knowledge of the Catholic faith that is not upheld by the practice of the sacramental life is empty knowledge. Please ensure that your children are given the opportunity to participate in the life of the Church by attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. We remind you that the role of the Disciple Maker Formation program can only be secondary to you, the parent. We encourage you to do all you can, and we promise to do the best we can, to aid and guide the sacramental preparation of your child.

We offer these tips for preparing your child(ren) for the Sacraments of Confession, First Holy Communion, or Confirmation:

- Attend Sunday Mass together, as failure to attend Sunday Mass is a grave sin.
- Help your child to fully participate in the Mass. Remember, if you don't sing or participate in the responses, neither will your child.
- Pray with your children. You are their first example of the faith.

ATTENDANCE

Regardless of grade, if your child must miss class, please email Sandi (elementary) at childandfamily@resurrectionallenton.org or Kaylyn (middle and high school) at formation@stpeterslinger.org. If you know in advance (i.e. vacation, etc.) that your child will be missing class, please let us know as soon as you are able.

High School and Middle School

Each week your student will bring home lesson worksheets for what was covered so you know what material they are learning. If your student will miss class, please let us know as soon as you know they will not be attending. (If you have events/vacation, please let us know ahead of time.) If we have advanced notice we will send work home ahead of time. If it is unexpected, you can pick up the missed materials at Clare Hall during the week or we will send them home at the next class. You are expected to cover the material with your child. It is important that your child learns the material covered so that he/she can stay caught up with their class and advance to the next grade level.

To be eligible for the Summer Formation Program, all formation requirements from the prior formation year (i.e., youth Masses, service opportunities, retreats, etc.) as well as the end of the year reflection must be completed and submitted by all deadlines.

Elementary School

Your student is responsible for bringing their workbook to each class. This way, you can review what was done each week. If they forget their workbook, they will have to share for the day and write out answers on paper. If they repeatedly forget it, we will call to ask that you bring it to class.

Each student will receive a class curriculum for the year. If your child is absent, you are expected to complete the lesson with your child and they will show it to the teacher at the next class. While each year focuses on different aspects of our faith, the materials build upon each other. It is important that your child learns the material covered so he/she can succeed in the next grade level.

SACRAMENTS

To get the most out of the Faith Formation experience, your child should be enrolled in each year of the program. This is particularly important as they are preparing to receive the Sacraments. First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are traditionally celebrated in the second grade; Confirmation is traditionally celebrated in the eleventh grade.

Children are to attend Formation classes for two years prior to receiving First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (first and second grade). Preparation for Confirmation begins in ninth grade; participation during ninth, tenth and eleventh grade is expected for Confirmation candidates. Please contact us if you need "catch-up" formation due to lack of prior instruction.

SERVICE PROJECTS

As part of their Faith Formation, every person will learn to share their time, talent, and treasures with others. This takes the form of service projects. For the children in preschool-grade 5, they will participate in service projects as a group – this could be with their own class, their grade level, or an even larger group – most projects take place during Advent and/or Lent. Particularly regarding money or other collections, students participate as much as they are able. It is not our aim to impose hardship on any family. One penny or one can of veggies given with the right intention is far more valuable than many dollars or objects given without thought. If you have suggestions for service projects, please contact us.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL FORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Growing in faith extends beyond classroom learning. In addition to attending *Learn It!* and *Live It!* faith formation sessions, each teen must participate in **(1) Youth Mass, (1) Retreat, and (3) Service Opportunities**.

See grade specific schedules for more details.

Registration and sign-ups for opportunities is done through our Sign Up Genius. Emails will be sent with the Sign Up Genius link, which is updated regularly with new opportunities throughout the year. Please contact us with any questions.

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BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Behavioral expectations are based on Jesus' command to Love as He loves. There are only a few rules, but they should be followed in the spirit of Christian Charity:

1. I will be quiet and respectful when someone else is speaking.
2. I will raise my hand when I want to speak.
3. I will stay in my seat unless instructed to move.
4. I will keep my hands, feet, and comments to myself.
5. I will always be respectful of other students, adults, and myself.
6. Church is a sacred space, and I will treat it as such.

Behavior issues are dealt with on a "case by case" basis between the Director of Formation and Parent.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Everyone is asked to put away and silence their cell phones and remove ear buds during class. Anyone found using their cell phone or ear buds during class will be asked to place them in the basket in the middle of the table until the end of class.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress appropriately for all formation sessions and activities:

- If you would not wear it to Church, do not wear during formation.
- Dress correctly for the weather conditions
- No short shorts or short skirts, low cut shirts, or low riding pants
- No shirts with alcohol or drug references, or with questionable messages or pictures.
- No hats may be worn during formation classes.

PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

Please schedule the use of regular medications around the class schedule. In the circumstance where a medication must be taken during class time, contact the Director of Formation in advance to make arrangements. Non-prescription medications will not be dispensed.

SAFETY CONCERNS

- Parents are always welcome to observe their child's class. For Safe Environment reasons, this must be arranged in advance. Please contact a staff member using the contact information below so that we are aware you will be attending class on a particular day.
- Be sure your child knows who they are going home with. This is especially important for families with custodial arrangements.
- First aid kits are available throughout the buildings. If a student is injured or ill, they have the option to call for an early ride home.
- The Archdiocese of Milwaukee is committed to maintaining safe environments for children to learn, pray, and grow. Using Circle of Grace curriculum, we instruct students about how to stay safe and healthy because they are God's children. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Sandi for more information.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Whenever classes are cancelled, we will send out a message via email, as well as post it on stpeterslinger.org. A good rule of thumb: If Slinger Schools are canceled, we will cancel. **Never** endanger yourself or your child by coming to class in bad weather. No student will "get in trouble" for missing class under these circumstances. If in doubt, choose safety!

WEBSITE

Please visit stpeterslinger.org/parent-resources for calendars, registration, and more information on the Disciple Maker Formation Program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact any of us with questions or concerns.

Director of Formation	Kim Slizewski	262-644-8083 ext. 2207	kim.slizewski@stpeterslinger.org
Child and Family Minister	Sandi Dhein	262-644-8083 ext. 2205	childandfamily@resurrectionallenton.org
Youth Activities Coordinator	Kaylyn Krebs	262-644-8083 ext. 2211	formation@stpeterslinger.org