

1. If the student is found using, selling, buying, or distributing drugs or alcohol outside or inside the parish premises, the police and parents will be contacted immediately. The student will be expelled from religious education for the remainder of the school year and be required to make up course work for that grade before reentry into the program. An interview with our priest and/or coordinator will be required upon request for reentry.
2. If a student shows evidence of use of drugs or alcohol before a program or activity, or shows evidence of use of drugs or alcohol during a program activity, the parents or guardians will be contacted to pick up the student. The student must then make up the work/time at the Faith Formation Center under the direct supervision of Faith Formation personnel.

The FF program will otherwise be involved in two ways:

1. Prevention – Through instruction of Catholic morality/values which deal with drug and alcohol education and related issues.
2. Faith Formation personnel will communicate with the schools in the area to determine their programs and policies.
3. Referral – Faith Formation personnel will refer families to counseling services using appropriate providers for such services in the area, if deemed necessary and appropriate.
If the student is involved in either circumstance (#1 or #2 above) in the year of the reception of a sacrament, it is recommended that the celebration of that sacrament be delayed for one year due to the seriousness of the situation.

Faith Formation Personnel

Parish Priest: Father Paul Paider pauljpaider@gmail.com

Deacon: Bobby Doxtator srdeaconstjoseph@gmail.com

Coordinator: Beverly Rittenhouse
saintjosephffbeverly@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Brenda Rybicki - Smith parishsecsjc@gmail.com

Faith Formation Office

Address: 145 Saint Joseph Drive Oneida, WI 54155

Parish Office hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 2:00 pm

Phone Numbers:

Parish Office: 920-869-2244

Beverly Rittenhouse: Cell 920 321-8511

Father Paul Paider: 920-869-2244 ext. 102

Deacon Bobby Doxtator: 920-869-2244 ext. 102

School Office: There is no phone at the Faith Formation School Office, **If your child will be absent for class, please call Beverly Rittenhouse 920-321-8511*

FEE and REGISTRATION

A fee of **\$100.00 for each student** in grades 1-11 with a **\$300.00 Family Cap**. Registration can be done online at our website: stjosephoneida.org No one will be turned away if they cannot afford the fee. Please contact Father Paider or Beverly Rittenhouse for fee assistance. Please make checks payable to St. Joseph Parish. You can pay through “We Share” on the parish web site, or put a check in the Sunday Mass collection marked “FF Fee” on the envelope, or simply mail a check to:
Saint Joseph Parish
Attention: Faith Formation
145 Saint Joseph Dr. Oneida, WI 54155

**Parents will have until December 31st to make their payment.*

***Catechists, who have children in our program will have their faith formation fee waived.*

Catechetical Ministry

We appreciate all those who will give their time and talent to this important ministry. If you feel called by Jesus to teach His little ones and would like to join our catechetical team as a teacher or assistant teacher, please call Beverly Rittenhouse, the Faith Formation Coordinator with any questions you may have about time commitment, curriculum, and training. In thinking about your commitment to our Catholic Faith, please reflect upon the following: Do I abide by the following precepts of the Catholic Church, which are: **1) I attend Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation, 2) I confess my sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, at least once a year, 3) I receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist, at least once during the Easter Season, 4) I observe the days of fasting and abstinence, established by the Church, 5) I help provide for the needs of the Catholic Church, in Time, Talent, or Treasure.**

Dress Code (1996)

Clothing attire for class is casual and modest. T-shirts with unsuitable slogans, bare midriffs, extremely short skirts, or the showing of undergarments is not allowed. Hats are not allowed in faith formation classes.

Vandalism (1992)

Any student of the faith formation program caught in the act of any type of vandalism will be required to make restitution appropriate to the act.

In the case of a serious offense:

1. Parents will be notified.
2. Financial or in-kind service will be determined by the priest/coordinator.
3. Parents, students, and FF staff will determine how and when the restitution will be carried out.

In the case of a minor offense:

1. A warning will be given and documentation made for each lesser offense.
2. Student and the FF coordinator will determine how, when, and what kind of restitution is appropriate for a minor offense.

Drug/Alcohol (1992)

Any student registered in the faith formation program found in possession of, or under the influence of intoxicating or mood altering drugs, not prescribed by a physician, or in possession of drug related paraphernalia at any parish sponsored event shall be subject to the the Green Bay Diocesan Board Policy #5141

Curriculum

The goal of the faith formation curriculum is to empower students and families to grow in their love, understanding, and practice of our Catholic Faith

Grades 1-8 will use the “***Christ Our Life Series***”. The content will develop a deeper love for God and a knowledge of the following Catholic teachings: The Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer.

Grade 1: ***God is Good*** teaches children in simple terms the mysteries of our faith as they pertain to the love and goodness of God our Father, Jesus our Savior, and Our Blessed Mother. The children will grow in their understanding of the importance of daily prayers, as they develop a desire for a greater friendship with God, Jesus, and Our Blessed Mother.

Grade 2: ***God Cares for Us*** places special emphasis on preparing the children to receive the incredible sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. Students will learn about the Mercy of God in receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Jesus’ great love for them in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. We will also be using curriculum from the ***New Saint Joseph First Communion Catechism***

Grade 3 and 4: ***We Believe and God Guides Us*** curriculums teach the truths of the Apostle Creed, The Ten Commandments, and The Beatitudes as living guides and anchors of morality in our daily lives.

Grade 5 and 6: ***We Worship and God Calls a People*** curriculums focus on the Mass, Eucharist, and Sacred Scripture. Students are taught the connection between the Old Testament, with God the Father and its fulfillment in the New Testament with Jesus, God our Savior. Both curricula are designed to foster a more intimate relationship with the blessings of our Catholic faith, which in its service and care for others, is a manifestation of God, Himself.

Grade 7 and 8: ***Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life*** and ***The Church Then and Now*** are devoted to teaching about God’s faithful and saving love as it is revealed through Sacred Scripture and God’s Son, Jesus. Both curriculums are designed to help teens: 1) grow in their knowledge of Catholic Church teachings, 2) come to a deeper understanding of the Church’s history and its important members, and 3) understand the history and meaning of Catholic beliefs and rituals.

Grade 9, 10, and 11: ***The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*** This curriculum will be used as the foundation to teach the following concepts: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture”, “Who is Jesus?”, “Mission of Jesus Christ”, “Jesus Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church”, “Sacraments as Privileged Encounters with Jesus”, and “Life in Jesus Christ”.

Confirmation: In preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the curriculum, ***Decision Point***, by Dynamic Catholic will be the main source for instruction, which focuses the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us, upon receiving Confirmation. Students will be taught of the incredible Gifts of the Holy Spirit which help grow the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in each of us. Students will understand that upon receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, they begin a new life as fully initiated Disciples and Witnesses of Christ.

****The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism will be used as a secondary source of instruction in all grades and in preparing for all sacraments.***

Note: Special Education

Every person deserves quality religious education and preparation for the sacraments. If you or someone in your family is in need of special consideration, we are willing to provide for your needs.

Religious Education Policies

Discipline (Revised 2024)

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a Christian manner respecting teachers, staff, and fellow students. If a student displays disrespectful behaviors in words or actions, they will be verbally corrected. If the disrespectful behavior continues, after two verbal corrections, a written warning will be given. If two written warnings are given the Faith Formation Coordinator will speak with the parents. If a student receives a third written warning, the parents and student will be asked to meet with the Faith Formation Coordinator, before returning to class.

Day/Time/Procedure (Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 PM)

Parents and children are asked to enter through the main church doors. Students are required to sign themselves in at 6:00 and **parents are required to sign their child out at 7:30**. Students and their teachers will begin each class with a short visit before the Blessed Sacrament, and all classes will gather at 7:25 before the Blessed Sacrament for an ending group prayer. Parents are welcome stay and pray before the Blessed Sacrament during class instruction and are encouraged to join the classes at 7:25 for group prayer

Food, Drinks and Cell Phones

Water and snacks will always be provided, however your child is also welcome to bring their own drink and snack.

All cell phones must be turned OFF upon arrival and stay off.

Inclement weather (1993)

1. No faith formation classes will be held on days when area schools are closed due to inclement weather.
2. **If schools close during the day due to the weather, there will be no religious education classes.** If weather becomes inclement during the late afternoon, a decision will be made whether to cancel classes. Parents will be sent a text message and also called. Parents are encouraged to use their best judgement.

The Sacraments of Initiation

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation

Requirements for receiving a Sacrament:

- Students must attend all faith formation classes.
- A parent must attend all Sacrament Parent Meetings.
- Students must complete the required homework and turn in all paperwork at the required time.
- A parent and student must attend First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Mini Retreats.
- The student must attend the Confirmation Retreat.
- Attending Sunday Mass is a requirement for all Catholics.

First Reconciliation: Jesus, due to His love and a desire for us to receive His forgiveness and mercy for our sins, especially grave sins, gave us this incredible grace filled sacrament. In preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession, students will learn of God's incredible understanding of our weaknesses and failures and the need to ask for His forgiveness, through this sacrament, which then opens up the abundance of His Sanctifying Graces to flow upon us. **Parents are encouraged to make it a frequent *family* habit of going to church to receive this Sacrament in order to receive the immensity of its graces** We prepare for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation in Grade 2.

First Eucharist: This sacrament is often referred to as First Holy Communion. Your child will be receiving, for the first time, *Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity* into their very being. It is an intimate and personal encounter of love between your child and Jesus. **Receiving Jesus, in Holy Communion, each Sunday at Mass, is the greatest source of Jesus' intimate love and grace in all of our lives.**

We prepare for the Sacrament of First Eucharist in Grade 2.

Confirmation: Students, in 11th grade, will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, by the Bishop. They will be, "Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit", as he blesses them with the Sign of the Cross using Holy Chrism Oil. At that moment, they will receive the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of God.

Faith Formation Expectations

1. Learning How to Pray Well

The root of all prayer is a loving relationship with Jesus. Praying is much more than reciting memorized words in repetition. Prayers said in this manner, do not unite our hearts to Jesus' Heart nor foster a greater love for God. Therefore, even as we teach and expect our students to know the traditional and common prayers of our Catholic Faith, which state our beliefs, honor God the Father, Jesus, and Our Blessed Mother, Mary, we will greatly emphasize mentally focusing on the words with deep sincerity. ***Certificates will be handed out at the end of the year, to all students, for the prayers they have learned and mastered.**

2. Completing Weekly Assignments

Your child will bring home, each week, paperwork, from the what they were taught in class. Please review and discuss the lesson with your child during the week, as review. Occasionally, there might be a section of the lesson to complete at home and return the next week. A list of required prayers will be provided at the beginning of the year, per grade level. Teachers will test for mastery throughout the year. ***All students will receive a Faith Formation Binder, which they must bring to class each week. Lessons and important announcements/information will be in the binder**

3. Special Family Classes

The following are special events in which the Parent/family is asked to attend:

September- Parent-Student Orientation

October- The Living Rosary

November- Family Bingo with Immaculate Conception

December- Christmas/Nativity Sing-a-Long with Craft/Social

Ash Wednesday Mass

End of the Year Prayer Service and Social

Dear Parents,

Thank you for entrusting us to partner with you in teaching your child about their Catholic Faith.

Throughout this year, we hope that your child will grow in their love for Jesus as they learn these key concepts: Jesus' amazing love for them, His desire that they all become saints, the love that Our Blessed Mother has for each one of them, the amazing miracle of the Eucharist, and how Jesus is encountered at every Mass. Beyond these concepts, they will be taught a great deal more about their Catholic Faith, all of which will help them develop an inner moral compass that will always point to Jesus.

Finally, we pray that all of us come to understand that each of our lives has a special spiritual purpose. May we be given the grace to fulfill the holy vocations that each of us was created to perform, for God's greater honor and glory.

**Saint Joseph Parish
Faith Formation
Family Handbook
2026-2027**

