

St. George & St. Mary Faith Formation Program

Revised: December 19, 2025

Thank you for choosing to enroll your child/ren in SGM Faith Formation. Through Parish leadership and teachers, we look forward to helping your child/ren develop a closer relationship with Jesus. As you know, all learning begins at home, so we appreciate your support.

Mission Statement: SGM Faith Formation will strive to provide a positive, safe learning environment for children to grow in their faith in Jesus. All children are gifts from God and should be recognized as such. SGM follows and implements the beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church.

- We will work to develop a community within each classroom and throughout the entire program. This will help students and families feel a sense of unity within the parish.
- Through prayer, sacrament preparation, relational ministry, and liturgy we will help students learn and understand their Catholic faith.
- We will immerse the students in the traditions rooted in the Catholic Church. Students will be provided with a foundation of faith and see how it can positively impact their life as well as those around them.

Attendance: Students enrolled in Faith Formation are expected to attend class each week. Consistent attendance is essential. We understand that illnesses and emergencies may arise; in such cases, please inform your child's teacher or the program coordinator as soon as possible.

Frequent absences raise concerns about a student's ability to engage with the curriculum, build community, and develop a consistent understanding of the faith. Our goal is to work with parents so that each child can continue to grow in faith and have the most enriching experience possible.

Regular participation each year is vital to ensure your child receives the proper guidance in preparation for the Sacraments and continues to grow in their faith.

Attendance for Sunday Mass & Holy Days of Obligation: Catholics worship God as a community of faith on Sunday or Saturday evenings by participating at Mass. It is expected that students in the Faith Formation program attend and participate in Mass regularly with their families.

Communication: A monthly newsletter will be emailed from the Faith Formation coordinator to each family. Email will be the primary form of communication. If this does not work for your family, please notify your child's teacher or the Faith Formation coordinator. Parents are always encouraged to communicate directly with the teacher. However, if a teacher is unable to be reached, please contact the Faith Formation coordinator. It is important to keep your contact information up to date. Should any of your information change, please contact sgmfaithform@gmail.com or contact Christine Wheeler, Colleen Kunz, or Stephanie Haar.

Student Behavior: Students are expected to be respectful and courteous to teachers and fellow students. If a student is disrespectful and/or causes disruption in class, she/he will be sent to the Faith Formation coordinator. Parents will be notified of any discipline issue.

Sacramental Programs: SGM Faith Formation is designed as a seamless Sacramental package. We use multiple resources including but not limited to Sadlier *We Believe*, Ascension *GPS*, Edge curriculum, and Loyola Press *Finding God*. It is a sequentially designed program that builds on students' knowledge year by year. Therefore, it is necessary that students attend each year to gain maximum benefit of the curriculum. Children can start as early as five years old in the kindergarten classes.

- The Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist/Communion are normally received in the second grade. However, two years of sacramental preparation are required, regardless of the child's academic grade.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation is ordinarily received in eighth grade. However, three years of sacramental preparation are required, regardless of the child's academic grade.
- We require students who have moved into our program to provide documented proof of attendance in another recognized preparation program and/or meet with the Faith Formation Coordinator and Pastor for determination of status.

We are dedicated to guiding your child in their journey of Catholic faith, which includes preparing them to receive the Sacraments. Our Faith Formation program is designed to build upon students' knowledge year by year, making consistent yearly attendance essential for gaining the full benefit of the curriculum. Sacrament preparation is a minimum two-year process, and students must be baptized in the Catholic Church before registering for any of the three Sacrament preparation courses offered. Each year in the program is vital, and the program can only be effective when students participate consistently. Please note that if a student has not completed the proper preparation, they will not be eligible to receive the Sacrament.

Fees: There is a fee for each student (as well as a family maximum) to enroll in the program. The funds are used to help offset the cost of materials. The ability to pay is not a requirement or excuse to attend. Please contact a Faith Formation coordinator to sponsor a family.

