



Faith Formation  
Parent and Student  
Handbook

2026-2027

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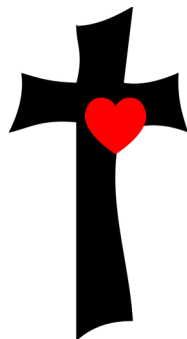
## *St. Anne's Faith Formation Vision Statement*

The vision of Youth Faith Formation at the Church of St. Anne is to help our young people know, love, and follow Jesus Christ and to grow in their Catholic faith. Through engaging faith formation, prayer, community, and the witness of caring adults, we seek to create an environment where every young person feels welcomed, valued, and encouraged to grow closer to Christ.

We believe that faith is not simply something we learn—it is something we live and share each day. Our goal is to help our youth discover how the Gospel speaks to their lives, guides their choices, and brings hope, joy, and purpose to their journey.

Through Youth Faith Formation, we strive to nurture a lifelong relationship with Christ, deepen our young people's understanding and love of the Catholic faith, and encourage them to actively participate in the life and mission of the Church.

Our hope is that every young person who takes part in Faith Formation at St. Anne will come to recognize that they are deeply loved by God, have a special place in His Church, and are called to be His disciples and share His love with the world.



## *Faith Formation Mission Statement*

The Faith Formation Ministry of the Church of St. Anne welcomes families, youth, and adults to grow in an active and living faith through a lifelong journey of discipleship.

We seek to lead each person into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ—to know Him, love Him, and invite Him into every part of our lives. Through this relationship with Christ, we are transformed and strengthened to live as His disciples and share His love with others.

We nurture this journey of faith through prayer, the Sacraments, ongoing learning and understanding of our Catholic faith, vibrant community, meaningful participation in the liturgy, and service to others.

Together, we strive to build a faith-filled parish community where all are encouraged to encounter Christ, grow in faith, live as His disciples, and joyfully share the Gospel with the world.



## 2026-2027 Faith Formation Staff

Pastor,

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[Fr.Chris@hotmail.com](mailto:Fr.Chris@hotmail.com)

Director of Faith Formation,

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# Faith Connections

Faith is a gift that is nurtured both in and by one's home and community. Below are suggestions for nurturing faith.

## **Join the community for Liturgy on a regular basis.**

- ★ Join us for Mass – Saturdays 5:15 pm / Sundays 8:00 am & 10:30 am
- ★ Before Mass, read the scriptures and share your thoughts with family and friends.
- ★ After Mass, continue the conversation with “What did you hear?” Talk about the symbols and actions.

## **Support and nurture family with intentional choices.**

- ★ Eat and pray together. Meals were important in the life of Jesus. At mealtime, families have opportunities to share values and pass on their faith.
- ★ Consider choices that are family-friendly that support your values.
- ★ Pay attention. Look for opportunities to live and celebrate your faith.
- ★ Protect family time by saying “no” when activities consume you.
- ★ Clearly state your messages of faith, love and support – often.

# Faith Formation Policies

## **TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND OTHER DRUGS**

The use and/or possession of tobacco products, drugs, alcohol or weapons are strictly prohibited on any church property or at any event.

## **PROCEDURE FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

- ❖ **First offense** – Verbal warning
- ❖ **Second offense** – Removal from class and parent notified
- ❖ **Third offense** – Parents are called to pick up student. A conference is held with student, parents, catechist, and staff to discuss when/if the student may return to class.

## **HARASSMENT**

It is essential to maintain a Christian environment that encourages the development of faith. Respect for the dignity of each person is essential in our Catholic tradition. It is vital that faith formation programs provide a learning and working environment free of any form of harassment or intimidation.

Harassment is defined as a single incident or pattern of behavior that creates a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment. Harassment can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- ❖ Threatening behavior
- ❖ Racial insults
- ❖ Derogatory ethnic slurs
- ❖ Unwelcome sexual advances or touching
- ❖ Sexual comments, jokes or gestures
- ❖ Physical or mental abuse

## **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

St. Anne's Faith Formation Program has policies in place for fire, severe weather, and medical emergencies. Catechists are informed of these policies during fall training sessions. St. Anne's also participates in the Safe Environment Program established by the Diocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul. Staff, teachers, volunteers and students all participate in this program.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be taken in all classes.

# Faith Formation Policies

## **DROP OFF/PICK-UP SAFETY PROCEDURE and PARKING LOT POLICY**

### ***In conjunction with the Archdiocesan Protection of Children and Youth Initiative:***

- All children in grades 1-5 must be escorted by a parent/ older sibling or another authorized adult to their assigned classroom.
- When class has ended, we ask that either the parent, older sibling, or authorized adult pick up the child from the assigned classroom or, depending upon the Catechist team, they may choose to escort the class to the entrance of the school for pick up. Please check with the Catechist in your child's grade.
- If older siblings are authorized to pick up the younger siblings after class, they must be in grade 6 or above and identify themselves to the catechist in the classroom.

## **PARKING LOT SAFETY PROCEDURE**

- We ask that ALL vehicles drive slowly in the parking lot. Please honor our attempt to keep your children safe.
- All vehicles must be parked in the parking lot.
- Extreme caution must be exercised while backing out of parking spots due to the presence of young children and youth.
- Keep your children in sight and close to you while moving through the parking area.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY**

At St. Anne's, we invite all families and their children with special needs to fully participate in Faith Formation and sacramental preparation. Please register your child through the online Registration Form found on our parish website: [www.stanneschurchlesueur.org](http://www.stanneschurchlesueur.org). With further questions, please call the Director of Faith Formation at 507-665-3811.

## **YOUTH EXPECTATIONS**

- To help youth to become fully formed and well-informed throughout their Faith Formation process, we ask students to participate in all of the scheduled classes and activities with an open and positive attitude.
- To create a positive learning environment, all cell phones and other electronic devices or toys must be turned off during class time.

## **SEVERE WEATHER**

- ★ If Le Sueur-Henderson School District cancels classes AND/OR evening activities, all Parish Faith Formation Programs will be canceled as well. Parents will be notified via Facebook and email.

# Sacramental Preparation

For complete information regarding sacraments, contact the staff listed below.

## Baptism

Baptism preparation is as needed. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated throughout the year.

Contact person: Fr. Chris Shofner, 507-665-3811

## First Reconciliation

Preparation for First Reconciliation is a family-centered program for children in grades two and older and their families.

Contact person: Ann Gindt, 507-665-3811

## First Eucharist

Preparation for First Eucharist is a family-centered program for children in Grades Two and older and their families. The group celebration of First Eucharist is typically within one to three weeks following Easter.

Contact person: Ann Gindt, 507-665-3811

## Confirmation

The Confirmation program is open to youth in grades 9 and 10. It is a two-year program. The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in the Spring.

Contact person: Ann Gindt, 507-665-3811

## Order of Christian Initiation for Adults/Children (OCIA)

OCIA is the process in which one inquires about being Catholic and takes the steps into full initiation of the Catholic Church.

Contact person: Fr. Chris Shofner, 507-665-3811

# **Sacramental Preparation**

## **Program Description for the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The community of St. Anne's Catholic Church invites families with children entering Second Grade or older to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Forgiveness/Healing, has traditionally been celebrated in Second Grade prior to the reception of First Eucharist. We use Blessed by Dynamic Catholic for our curriculum.

## **Program Description for the Sacrament of First Eucharist**

The Community of St. Anne's Catholic Church invites families with children entering Second Grade and older to prepare for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. First Eucharist (or First Communion) is traditionally celebrated in Second Grade. Parents are asked to support the preparation of their children for the Sacrament of the Eucharist by regularly attending weekend Mass and registering their child for St. Anne's School or Faith Formation and fully participating in all classes and events. We use Blessed by Dynamic Catholic for our curriculum.

## **Program Description for the Sacrament of Confirmation**

Confirmation is often celebrated in the spring of the year. The Church of St. Anne seeks to prepare the young person with sound Catholic doctrine and the development of their relationship with Jesus Christ. The Confirmation process is a two-year process beginning in Ninth Grade with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in Tenth Grade. We use the Catholic Faith Handbook and the Chosen program for our curriculum. For further information, call our Ann Gindt, Director of Faith Formation at 507-665-3811.

# Catechesis and Formation

**Elementary    Grade level: 1-5**

## **Times and Dates:**

Grades 1-5 meet on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:00 PM, from late September through the first week of May (see the Faith Formation Calendar).

## **Description:**

Students in Grades 1-5 study the faith using a curriculum published by Augustine Institute called *Word of Life*. This is a dynamic approach to learning the Catholic faith, integrating knowledge of the faith with the discovery of an authentic Catholic identity, so that fruitful participation in the Church's life and mission may be reinvigorated.

The Word of Life curriculum is centered around four "Catechetical Threads" that are part of each lesson:

- 1)      Salvation History: Revealing God's presence and plan throughout history and our place in that plan.
- 2)      Christian Anthropology: The true human story that answers the questions about our real identity, why we are here, and who we are called to be.
- 3)      Heroic Virtue & Character Formation: By cooperating with God's grace and the supernatural virtues, we find our true dignity and purpose and can live with heroic virtue and character.
- 4)      Learning through Discipleship: Catechesis that shows why the faith matters and nurtures a deepening integration of the faith in daily life through Christian discipleship.

Students in Grade 2 also prepare for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist by using the *Blessed* curriculum from Dynamic Catholic. Using world-class animations, *Blessed* meets children where they are as they learn the fundamentals of what it means to grow in the faith of Jesus Christ, helping them to embrace the truth that they are blessed. At the same time, it prepares them with all they need to be ready to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

## **Parent Commitment:**

- Regular participation at weekend liturgy is a central element of this program and our Catholic Faith.
- Encourage prayer at home with your family
- Stay current with your child's assigned activities.

# ***Catechesis and Formation***

**Middle School      Grade level: 6-8**

## **Times and Dates:**

Grades 6-8 meet on Wednesday evenings 6:00-7:00 PM, from late September through the first week of May (see the Faith Formation Calendar).

## **Description:**

Students in Grades 6-8 also study the faith using a curriculum published by Augustine Institute called *Word of Life*. This is a dynamic approach to learning the Catholic faith, integrating knowledge of the faith with the discovery of an authentic Catholic identity, so that fruitful participation in the Church's life and mission may be reinvigorated.

The Word of Life curriculum is centered around four "Catechetical Threads" that are part of each lesson:

- 1)      Salvation History: Revealing God's presence and plan throughout history and our place in that plan.
- 2)      Christian Anthropology: The true human story that answers the questions about our real identity, why we are here, and who we are called to be.
- 3)      Heroic Virtue & Character Formation: By cooperating with God's grace and the supernatural virtues, we find our true dignity and purpose and can live with heroic virtue and character.
- 4)      Learning through Discipleship: Catechesis that shows why the faith matters and nurtures a deepening integration of the faith in daily life through Christian discipleship.

## **Parent Commitment:**

- Support your student as they progress through the Middle School faith journey
- Participate with your son or daughter at Mass each week.
- Talk with your son or daughter about material addressed during weekly classes.

# ***Catechesis and Formation***

**Senior High/Confirmation Preparation**

**Grades 9 and 10**

## **Times and Dates:**

Grades 9 & 10 meet on Wednesday evenings 6:00-7:00 PM, from late September through the first week of May (see the Faith Formation Calendar).

## **Description:**

Our students in Grade 9 will use the *Chosen: Your Journey to Confirmation* curriculum from Ascension. This curriculum uses videos and guided discussion to open new paths of discipleship for our students.

Our students in Grade 10 will use the *Catholic Faith Handbook* as their curriculum. This curriculum is organized to parallel the Catechism of the Catholic Church by offering teachings on four main pillars: 1) The Creed, 2) Liturgy & Sacraments, 3) Christian Morality, and 4) Christian Prayer. This guide allows students to engage with the material in their classroom discussions. With practical sidebars and review questions at the end of each chapter, students will learn more deeply the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Two NET retreats are planned for this year. The Fall retreat (Wednesday, November 4, 2026) is for students in Grade 9. The Spring retreat (Wednesday, March 10, 2027) is for Grade 10. These retreats will take place in Le Center at St. Mary's Church from 3:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Confirmation is often celebrated in the spring of the year, typically after Easter. This year, we will celebrate Confirmation on Sunday, April 25, 2027, at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Church of St. Anne seeks to prepare the young person with sound Catholic doctrine and the development of their relationship with Jesus Christ. The Confirmation preparation is a two-year process typically beginning in Grade 9, with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in Grade 10. However, students at any grade in High School may begin the two-year program.