

GOOD SHEPHERD'S KIDS

Elementary Faith Formation
at Ascension Catholic Church



2025-2026 Handbook

In this ministry, we are excited to partner with our families as we all grow in faith together.

We seek to become better disciples of Jesus through our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd sessions (Montessori based faith formation model) and our God's Plan in Scripture (GPS sessions).

We thank God for those named below who share their love, faith, time and talent for sharing God's message with our community.

Faith Formation Team— 2025- 2026

Tuesday 4:00—6:00 pm			
Room	Grade/Level	Catechist(s)	Class Assistant
Ministry Building 304	CGS Level 1	Annette Erdman	Ines Obradovich
Ministry Building 307	CGS Level 2	Clare Saint Gabriel	Betty Redd
Ministry Building 313	GPS Gr. 4 & 5	Dianne McGahee	Fran Coppola, Nancy Haidet
Hall Monitors & Volunteers in rooms as needed		Sally Ramsey	
Wednesday 4:00—6:00 pm			
Room	Grade/Level	Catechist(s)	Class Assistant
Ministry Building 304	CGS Level 1	Kari Stadelman, Tino Cervantes	Eason Caduff, Michelle Mathura
Ministry Building 307	CGS Level 2	Sarah Caduff, Helen Casper, Isabella Cervantes	
Ministry Building 313	CGS Level 3	Jennifer Cervantes	Stephanie Kodadek, Lynn Minner
Hall Monitors & Volunteer in rooms as needed		Cathy Katz	Stephenie Fleegle Rozwood
Wednesday 6:00-7:30 pm			
Room	Grade/Level	Catechist(s)	Class Assistant
Ministry Building 307	CGS Level 2	Betsy Glasenapp	Megan (Golinowski) _____ Florence Heidel
Ministry Building 313	GPS Gr. 4 & 5	Dawn Ewing & Steve Reimann	
Hall Monitors & Volunteers in rooms as needed			

CELL PHONE POLICY: No cell phones (calling or texting) are to be used during Faith Formation classes as they cause disruptions in the session. If you need to contact your student, please use our emergency contact number which is **386-235-1358**.

Communication: Primary communication from the Office of Faith Formation will be through our **monthly MailChimp e-mail** starting the end of August Please check your spam filter or spam mail if you do not receive anything by September 10th.

Ascension Web-site: A copy of schedule is available on the Ascension Catholic Church web-page at www.ascensioncatholic.net under the “Faith Formation” tab and “Good Shepherd’s Kids.”

Emergency Closings: If Brevard County schools have an emergency closing because of threatening weather, Faith Formation Sessions will be cancelled for that day.

Rules: Our goals encourage Christian attitudes and growth in self-discipline. We are called to be a community based on the shared acceptance of the message of Jesus Christ. Guidelines for behavior during religious education sessions are as follows:

- ✝ I respect the personal space and will not touch or speak to another in any way that offends that person or others.
- ✝ I respect the need for Faith Formation to be a safe and inviting place to learn.
- ✝ I respect other students’ rights to learn and the catechists’ responsibility to instruct.
- ✝ I respect my duty to be prepared, on time and in the right place.

Discipline—When the student displays conduct disruptive to any Faith Formation volunteer or another student, the catechist will give the student the opportunity to change his/her unacceptable behavior.

If the unacceptable behavior continues, the student will be asked to conference with the catechist and parents after class.

If the unacceptable behavior continues during another Faith Formation class, the student will be sent down to see Miss Betsy to call their parent/guardian and set up a conference between catechist, parent, student and the Director of Faith Formation (DFF)

Should the unacceptable behavior continue after this conference, the student will be readmitted to class only with a parent joining them until such time as the unacceptable behavior stops. Although no problems are anticipated, we reserve the right to suspend or possibly expel a student.

Health Concerns and Medication—Please provide information about special medical needs or conditions on the student enrollment form. While Ascension will do its utmost to address or otherwise accommodate any such concerns as required by law, the Parent/Guardian hereby acknowledges that the Faith Formation personnel and Ascension are not medical providers, and cannot administer any medications. If a student has any such special medical concerns or needs, Parent/Guardian must leave, both with the Director of Faith Formation and the individual teacher, a written phone number at which such Parent/Guardian can be reached immediately, and be available while the student is attending Faith Formation classes.

Child Custody Issues—It is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide copies of documents related to child custody, and restraining orders, if applicable, and to personally make the DFF and individual teacher aware of any unique concerns related thereto. In such case, the custodial parent must leave, both with the DFF and individual teacher, a written phone number at which such Parent/Guardian can be reached immediately, and be available while the student is attending Faith Formation classes. Ascension will do all that is required of it by law as an educator under such circumstances.

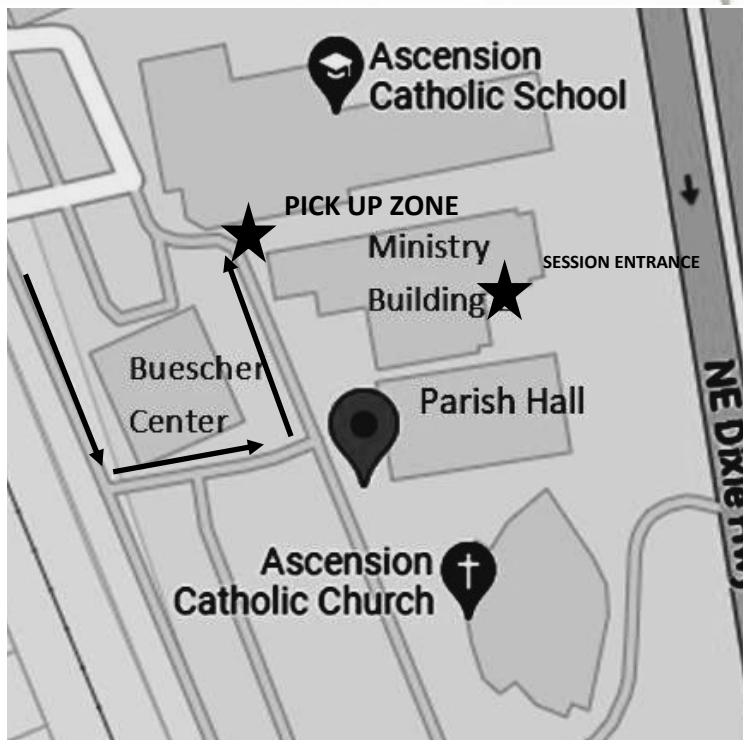
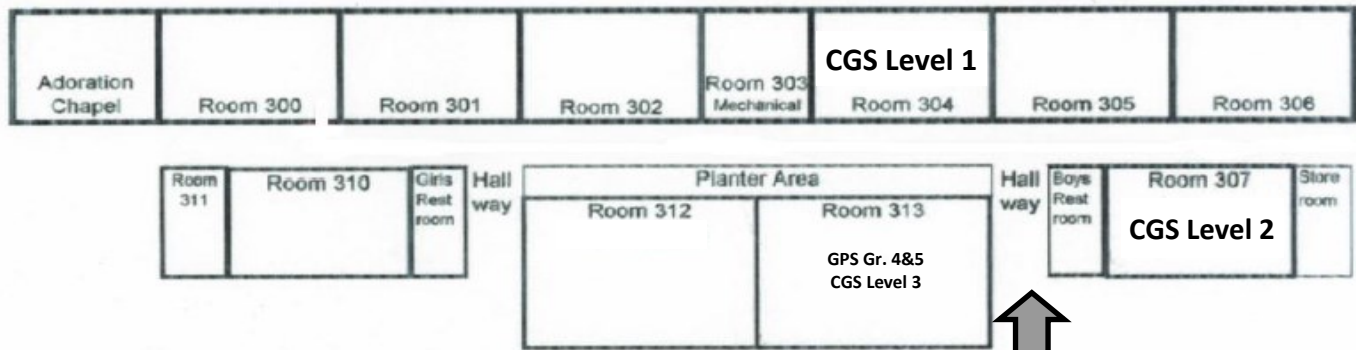
Attendance: Regular/weekly attendance is important to the total development of faith. To utilize the faith formation time well, it would be good if they also used the bathroom/drank water/had snack before class. If students will be absent, please call the Faith Formation office at 254-1595 x3080. If a student misses three consecutive classes, a courtesy call will be made to see if he/she is still enrolled in our program.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT POLICIES

Check-in: Please park and walk your child to the monitored entrance of the Ministry Building E. You will pass the double glass doors past the Faith Formation Office and the second planter area. Please make sure that your child arrives safely in the building and into the supervision of Faith Formation volunteers on time.

Check-out: We will dismiss via a carline in front of the Ministry Building. If you are early, we ask that you move forward to the 5 cones closer to the school since Ascension School Aftercare will be utilizing the same doors for pick up. Youth will be outside under the covered walkway beginning at five minutes before the end of the session.

- **Authorized Pick Up:** We will release youth to those you have granted permission to pick up on the registration form. Phone notification or a hand written dated and signed note from the parent MUST be given in advance to the DFF for any person other than those specified on the enrollment form to sign out a student.
- **Early Departure-** Parents/guardians/carpool managers must alert the hallway monitor at the entrance at drop off that the child will be picked up early. The volunteer will radio the class and the child will be sent to the carline entrance. Adults may be asked to present identification in order for the child to be released. This measure is designed to ensure the safety of the children.



Monitored Entrance

If a medical, family, or spiritual need arises during the year, please let the Faith Formation office know so that we might better minister with you and your children.

Betsy Glasenapp
Director of Elementary Faith Formation
 Phone: 321-254-1595 x 3080
 E-mail: dre@ascensioncatholic.net

for Confirmation

- You can register for Confirmation preparation beginning in the 9th grade
- Contact our Director of Youth Ministry Cara Giuliano for information

for First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

To ensure a successful sacramental experience for your child we offer the following :

- Take your child to Mass each weekend (Saturday evening, Sunday morning or evening).
- Attend all sacramental preparation sessions. All sessions begin in the Church (wherever we are worshipping at the time of the session). ***Both child and parent/guardian(s) are required to attend all prep classes.***

<i>First Reconciliation</i>	<i>First Holy Communion</i>
Prep Session 1—Monday, September 29th 6:00—7:30 pm	Prep Session 1—Monday, February 9th 6:00—7:30 pm
Prep Session 2—Monday, October 6th 6:00—7:30 pm	Prep Session 2—Monday, March 2nd 6:00—7:30 pm
Prep Session 3— Monday, October 20th 6:00—7:30 pm	Prep Session 3— Monday, March 9th 6:00—7:30 pm
<i>Celebration on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm</i>	<i>Celebrations on April 18th or April 19th at Mass</i>

Circles of Grace is a faith-based program which focuses on helping young people recognize God's love and understand that each of us lives and moves in a Circle of Grace. The goal of the ***Circles of Grace*** program is to educate and empower young people to actively create a safe environment for themselves and others.

There will be an **introductory session to the Circles of Grace** program for parents/guardians during Faith Formation sessions **Tuesday, December 9th and Wednesday, December 10th**. We will have handouts explaining the background and philosophy of the program and you will have the opportunity to see the whole curriculum for your child (ren)'s grade level. If you miss this session, please feel free to contact Betsy at anytime and she can get the information to you or meet with you individually.

We will be implementing the **Circles of Grace** program on our first week back after winter break, on Tuesday, **January 13th and Wednesday, January 14th**. The presentations will be only a part of the session. Youth will continue working with items in the atrium or Bible reflection after the Circles of Grace material is presented.