



ST. EGBERT

CATHOLIC CHURCH

1706 EVANS STREET
MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28557

Faith Formation **Guidelines**

2025-2026

Introduction

In Deuteronomy 6:5-7, God commands parents to educate their children in faith.

Parents have the unique responsibility for the education of their children in the Catholic faith. Parents are the first catechists (teachers) and educate primarily “by the witness of their Christian lives and by their love of faith,” National Directory of Catechesis, page 234.

Our Parish Faith Formation program exists to support *you* as the primary catechists of your household by providing systematic sessions teaching the basics of our Catholic faith. Our sessions combined with your example of a life in faith and service will resonate with the child’s lived experience of faith in the home. With your help, your child’s experience becomes deeply meaningful, and their faith has a better chance of lasting a lifetime.

The presentation of faith in a gathered setting, or “Sunday School”, requires certain policies and guidelines to ensure a smooth program operation. St. Egbert Parish Faith Formation policies and guidelines are contained in the next pages.

Please carefully read over the content and use it as a reference throughout the catechetical year. When you sign the Registration form, you agree to the policies and guidelines.

Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child’s participation in our program, please contact us and we will be happy to discuss them with you. Emails will be used as the main source of communication throughout the year. The website will be used to announce church and faith formation closings.

Director of Faith Formation
Michele Roberts
msm@stegbert.org

Website
<https://www.stegbertcatholicchurch.org/>

Church Administrator
Kim LeClair
churchadmin@stegbert.org

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

Sacrament Years, Records and Expectations

Baptismal and First Communion Certificates

A copy of your child's baptismal certificate is REQUIRED for a child who is preparing for their First Communion (1st and 2nd grade, as well as any older students who missed the opportunity during 2nd grade). **Certificates are due by September 15, 2025.**

For those students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, copies of **Baptismal and First Communion certificates are required by September 15, 2025.**

Copies of Certificates should be attached to the student's Registration form as we need verification from the Church of Baptism. For Confirmation, copies of Baptism and First Communion certificates are required. All sacramental records are kept on file in the office of the parish where the sacrament was received, and parishes will mail the certificate to a parent upon receiving a request by phone.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Second grade is the usual grade for children to receive these sacraments. Children must attend faith formation in First and Second grade in order to receive these sacraments. Parent meetings, home preparation, regular attendance at Mass and faith formation classes are required. If your child was not baptized in the Catholic Church, please inform us immediately so we can help your family prepare. Only Baptized children are eligible to receive First Communion.

Confirmation

After completing two years of preparation, the Rite of Confirmation typically occurs during a student's sophomore year of high school in this Diocese. Regular participation at Mass, Reconciliation, and retreat attendance are required for students. Sponsors and parents are also required to attend designated sessions throughout the school year. Prior to a student beginning their preparation, Certificates of Baptism and First Communion should be turned into the parish along with Registration no later than September 15, 2025.

Celebration of Sacraments

Please remember to keep the Sacrament as the center of your student's celebration. As your child receives First Reconciliation, First Communion and/or the Rite of Confirmation, remember that receiving the sacraments of the Church is entirely about your child's growth in faith and their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church community.

Celebration of Sacraments continued

Please keep these important dates for your child holy by showing reverence for the Sacrament they receive. Instructions for their special day will be given as the date approaches.

If you don't feel your child is ready to receive a Sacrament, please contact us immediately to discuss options.

Transfer Students and Students Receiving Sacraments at Different Ages

Parents of students who transfer from other Catholic Churches or Schools must provide a letter from their previous church or school stating that their child received their first year of preparation for the Sacrament they wish to receive.

If a student was unable to receive a Sacrament during the regular Faith Formation time frame, they will need to complete two years of preparation prior to receiving the Sacrament they wish to receive.

Please contact the Director of Faith Formation at msm@stegbert.org to set up an appointment prior to August 31, 2025, if you would like to enroll your student for the 2025-2026 school year.

Parish Family Events

Family Events are unique opportunities for families of All Ages to come together to learn more about their Parish faith community. Events include things like the Harvest Fest, Kids' Fests and more. Check the website, bulletin and social media to keep up with exciting events.

Parent and Adult Opportunities

Throughout the year, the Parish provides many activities and events for parents to enrich their faith in an adult setting. These opportunities include seasonal worship events, Bible studies, Drinks and Dogma, Hiking Club, Cooking Club, guest speakers and other organized events. Parents are *required to attend at least one event* but as many as possible. These events are for your spiritual growth as our understanding of faith is a lifelong process.

Volunteering

We are ALWAYS in need of volunteers. Check with your child's teacher or another member of the Faith Formation team for various opportunities to help. Remember, our Catechists are volunteers too and, in most cases, do not have children in the program. They just have a love of God, their faith and the children.

Updates to Sunday Schedules

The quote, "the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life," is from the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium*, no. 11. It means that the Eucharist, or the Sacrifice of the Mass, is the **highest form of worship and the origin of all grace** for the Church and her members. The quote is also echoed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1324 and the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, no. 10.

All families seeking to enroll their child in St. Egbert Parish Faith Formation should faithfully attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation. Parents should exercise their responsibilities towards the Sacraments as a good example to their children.

In order to support parents and families, we have adjusted the Sunday schedules to allow families to attend Mass together.

The new Sunday Session time frame will be from 10:15-10:55am for all students.

First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation students will have mini, half-day and/or full day retreats during their second year of Sacramental preparation to increase their readiness to receive the Sacraments. In most instances parents and/or Sponsors will be required to attend retreats with students.

Curriculum

Purpose and Guidelines

The goal and purpose of all catechesis is to support parents in their role of forming their children into disciples of Jesus Christ and life-long active members of His church. In a continuing effort to do this, the parish faith formation program attempts to propose the beliefs of the Catholic faith in a comprehensive and systematic way through instruction and active participation, as well as providing special prayer opportunities throughout the year.

Workbooks

Students use the curriculum and workbooks provided by Pflaum Publishing which are based on the Gospel message of the Sunday Mass and includes texts for Sacramental preparation.

Students and parents will be given home assignments. The completed assignments should be brought to the next scheduled session.

Program Policies and Guidelines

Sunday Worship

Sunday Mass is a vital component of every Catholic's formation, whether they are children or adults. Weekly Mass attendance as a family is critical for effective faith development and community building. During these Faith Formation sessions, students are taught the importance of participating in the liturgy. This opportunity is crucial for your child. *For this reason, **Sunday Faith Formation Sessions will be held from 10:15-10:55am on designated dates throughout the school year.***

Attendance and Absences

Students should attend all sessions, and we thank you in advance for your effort to prioritize faith formation amidst very busy family schedules. When planning family trips, please check the calendar to see when classes are not in session. Occasionally, a student will be unable to attend a session due to illness or another reason. If your child is absent from Faith Formation class, we will assume that as the parent you have made the determination your child is unable to attend for a valid reason. Students are responsible for covering the material they missed, with their parents' help, so that they do not fall behind. **There should be no more than 2 absences during the catechetical year.** If absenteeism becomes a problem, the Catechist will notify the Director of Faith Formation, and they will contact the parent(s).

Safe Environment

The Catholic Diocese of Raleigh and St. Egbert Catholic Church take your child's safety seriously. Each Catechist and Volunteer must attend the mandatory Safe Environment Training and background check to be part of the Faith Formation team.

Illness or Injury Outside of Faith Formation

If your child is ill or unable to attend class for any health reason, please do not send him or her to class. We want all of our students to remain healthy. If your child is unable to attend Faith Formation sessions for an extended time due to illness or injury, please let us know, and we will make arrangements for them to remain current with their sessions.

We will also add their first name to our Parish Prayer Intention list.

Expectations during Faith Formation Classes

Arrival, Tardy Arrival, and Building Security

Students should arrive no earlier than 10:10am and no later than 10:15am for their scheduled sessions. Parents of students under high-school age should walk their child to the main entrance door to sign their student in and pick up their students from the same door at 10:55am to sign out. For the protection of our children, parents will be responsible for signing their child in/out of class. Please make every effort to have your child arrive on time as tardiness is disruptive and causes the student to miss important announcements. For safety reasons, the building will be locked at 10:20am.

Dismissal

If someone other than a parent needs to pick up a child, it's crucial to ensure they are authorized to do so by the parents. This authorization should include the name of the person authorized to pick up the child, their relationship to the child, and the date(s) for which the authorization is valid. The parent must send this information **at least 24 hours in advance** to the Director of Faith Formation at msm@stegbert.org. I.D. will be required at pick up.

If your child must leave early, the parent must send a dated and signed note via email to the Director. The parent must meet their child at the main door at the designated time to sign their child out. Children will not be permitted to leave the building alone or wait in the parking lot for early dismissal.

Behavior and Code of Conduct

Embracing the tenets of our Catholic faith, we expect that everyone will treat others with kindness, patience and respect. This applies to people of all ages from children to adults. Disruptive, dangerous or unkind behavior will be cause for dismissal from the program and the Director will contact the parent(s) immediately for pick up. Repetitive unacceptable behavior will be cause for dismissal from the program for the year.

Conclusion

We exist to help you catechize your family. Please do not hesitate to contact the Director if you need resources for support, or if you have questions or concerns.

God bless you and your families.