



MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

www.oviedocatholic.org

Discipleship & Faith Formation

Handbook for Faith Formation
2016-2017

Fr. David Scotchie

Pastor

dscotchie@oviedocatholic.org

Fr. Vilaire Philius

Parochial Vicar

vphilius@oviedocatholic.org

John Molloy

Director of Discipleship

jmolloy@oviedocatholic.org

Chris Hernandez

Assistant-Office of Discipleship

chernandez@oviedocatholic.org

Parish Office Phone: (407) 365-3231

Discipleship and Faith Formation

*helps our community to hear and respond to Jesus' call
to "Come, Follow Me" as his disciples.*

Welcome to Faith Formation!

Children's Faith Formation provides children and youth in elementary – high school grades with an ongoing opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ and grow in relationship with Him and the Catholic Church. Using an approved curriculum, catechists help the participants to deepen their knowledge of Jesus, grow in their love of Jesus, and faithfully follow Jesus in their daily lives.

Registration

Registration usually opens in May. Families must be registered in the Parish in order to enroll for Faith Formation sessions. Those enrolling their children for the first time must provide a copy of each child's Baptism certificate.

Fees

Registration fees are as follows: \$90 for one child, \$130 for two children, \$170 for three or more children. These fees are used to purchase textbooks, classroom supplies, and assist in the payment of property usages. If there is any financial hardship, please contact John Molloy, Director of Discipleship.

Curriculum

The curricula that has been chosen are: ***Alive in Christ*** and ***Faith Fusion*** for grades 1-7, published by Our Sunday Visitor, and ***Decision Point*** for 8th grade, published by Dynamic Catholic. Each publisher has made online resources available for families to engage the lessons at home. Parents are encouraged to visit the following websites and utilize the resources provided throughout the year:

Alive in Christ—aliveinchrist.osv.com/family

Faith Fusion—www.faithfusion.com

Dynamic Catholic—www.dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation

Textbooks

Textbooks are purchased for each child/youth and are used during the sessions. Lesson summaries and tips to engage the lesson as a family, called "Faith + Family" pages, are sent home each week at the end of class. Some of the catechists provide folders. Please help your child/youth remember to bring it back weekly.

Rules and Discipline

Because the class time is limited, each catechist will set up simple classroom rules in order to maximize time and minimize distractions. Do not bring toys, handheld games or ipods. Cell phones may not be used during session. If consistent discipline issues occur with a child/youth, the Director of Discipleship will contact the parents to discuss the situation and how best to resolve it.

Attendance policy

Children and youth are allowed **no more than 3 absences** over the course of the Faith Formation year. Sessions begin promptly at 4:45pm and 6:30pm in the Parish Life Center. Please ensure that your child/youth is sitting with his/her class and is ready at the beginning of the session.

Cancellations

If there are any cancellations due to serious weather conditions or other concerns, an email communication will be sent to all families, the parish website and “myparish app” will be updated with a notice of cancellation. Please make sure to check all locations, particularly if the weather looks questionable.

Emergency Contact

All families **MUST** have an emergency contact card on file. These are provided in the parent folders distributed at the beginning of the Faith Formation year. In the event of sickness, behavior, or other issues, either the Director of Discipleship or the Assistant to Discipleship will reach out to the emergency contact.

Communications

General communication for Faith formation will be done electronically through email or “myparish app” (downloadable on Apple or Android smartphones; see the video tutorial on the parish website). Monthly/bi-monthly newsletters will be sent out with relevant information and important dates. Please ensure that you are receiving the emails and staying up to date.

Creating a Safe Environment

All volunteers 15 years and older have gone through the diocesan-

mandated *Safe Environment* process. During the Faith Formation sessions, only authorized adults and teens may enter the classrooms. Any adult or teen who would like to help with Faith Formation must contact the Director of Discipleship.

The Diocese of Orlando mandates the annual presentation of the “Learning about L.I.F.E.” program. More information will be sent to families as the date of the in-class presentation approaches.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Please reference the map on the next page as you read through these important directions regarding arrival and dismissal. Traffic flow is different on Faith Formation evenings than on Sundays.

Arrival

All children/youth should arrive in time to sit with their class for the scheduled start of Faith Formation (4:45pm or 6:30pm).

Carline procedure

Enter and exit through the SOUTH Entrance (closest to 419). Drive to the entrance between the two parking areas, turn left into the driveway and proceed to the carline drop-off point in front of the **Parish Life Center**. Follow the directions of the parking-assistants and once you have dropped off your child, continue out to the lot exit, turn right, and exit the property using the South Entrance. There is **no parking** allowed in the Parish Life Center lot for any reason from **4:00pm - 7:00pm** for the safety of our students and parking assistants. Please be sure your child is prepared to exit the car when you enter the Carline. If additional time is needed or if you need to park for any reason, please use the North Entrance and park in the Parish Office lot.

Parking procedure

If you wish to park and walk your child into the Parish Life Center, you must enter and exit through the NORTH Entrance (closest to 426). Enter the property and proceed to the first right turn into the **Parish Office** parking area. Park your car and walk your child(ren) to their designated area in the Parish Life Center. **Children must be escorted all the way into the PLC and are not permitted to be in the parking lot without adult supervision, nor are they**

permitted to go directly to their classroom. When exiting the parking area you will exit through the same Parish Office entrance/exit, turn left and exit the property through the North Entrance. **The driveway to the South Entrance will be blocked and is only available to those using the CARLINE.** There is to be no parking along the fence line – you may continue to park in the grassy lot if you so desire.

Late Arrivals

In the rare event that your child/youth is late, park in the Parish Office parking lot and escort your child/youth to the Narthex. A helper will then bring him/her to their classroom. For safety reasons, children/youth **may not** go directly to their classrooms – the doors will be locked and the catechist will not open them.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Dismissal

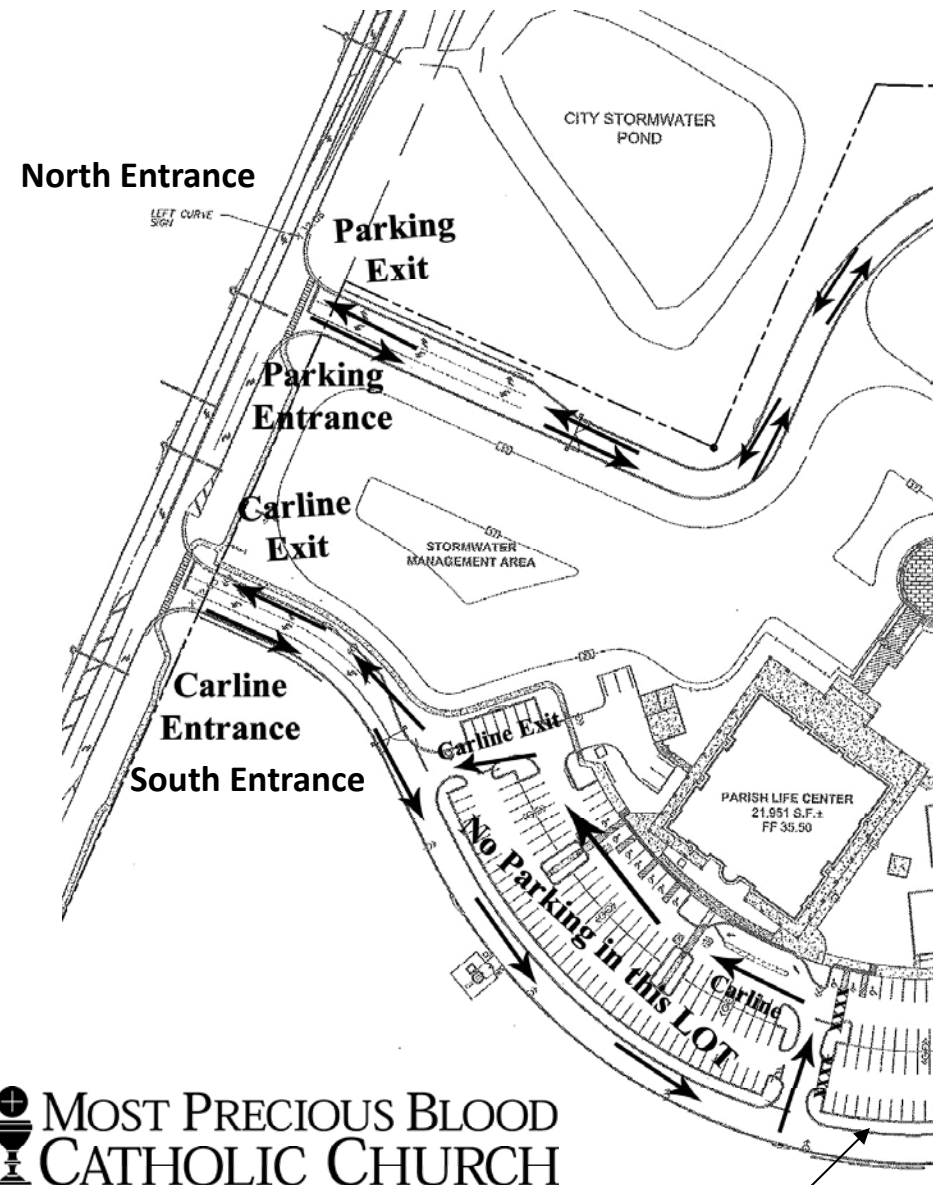
Catechists will dismiss children/youth from the individual classrooms. Catechists in the portables will open the door at the scheduled ending time; please do not knock as it is disruptive to the lesson. All children/youth (grades 1-8) must be signed out by an adult.

We do not dismiss children early from Faith Formation sessions.

Parking for Dismissal—Early sessions (4:45-6:00pm)

Parking at the time of dismissal will be available in the parking area in front of the Parish Office only. The parking area in front of the Parish Life Center is **closed** for parking between **4:00pm – 7:00pm**. Enter and exit through the North Entrance. Enter the property and proceed to the first right turn into the Parish Office parking area. Park and proceed to your child/youth's classroom and wait for the doors to be opened for dismissal. When exiting the parking area you will exit through the same Parish Office entrance/exit, turn left and exit the property through the North Entrance. **The driveway to the South Entrance will be blocked and is only available to those using the CARLINE.** There is to be no parking along the fence line – you may continue to park in the grassy lot if you so desire. **There is NO PARKING allowed in the lot in front of the PLC – it is carline only.**

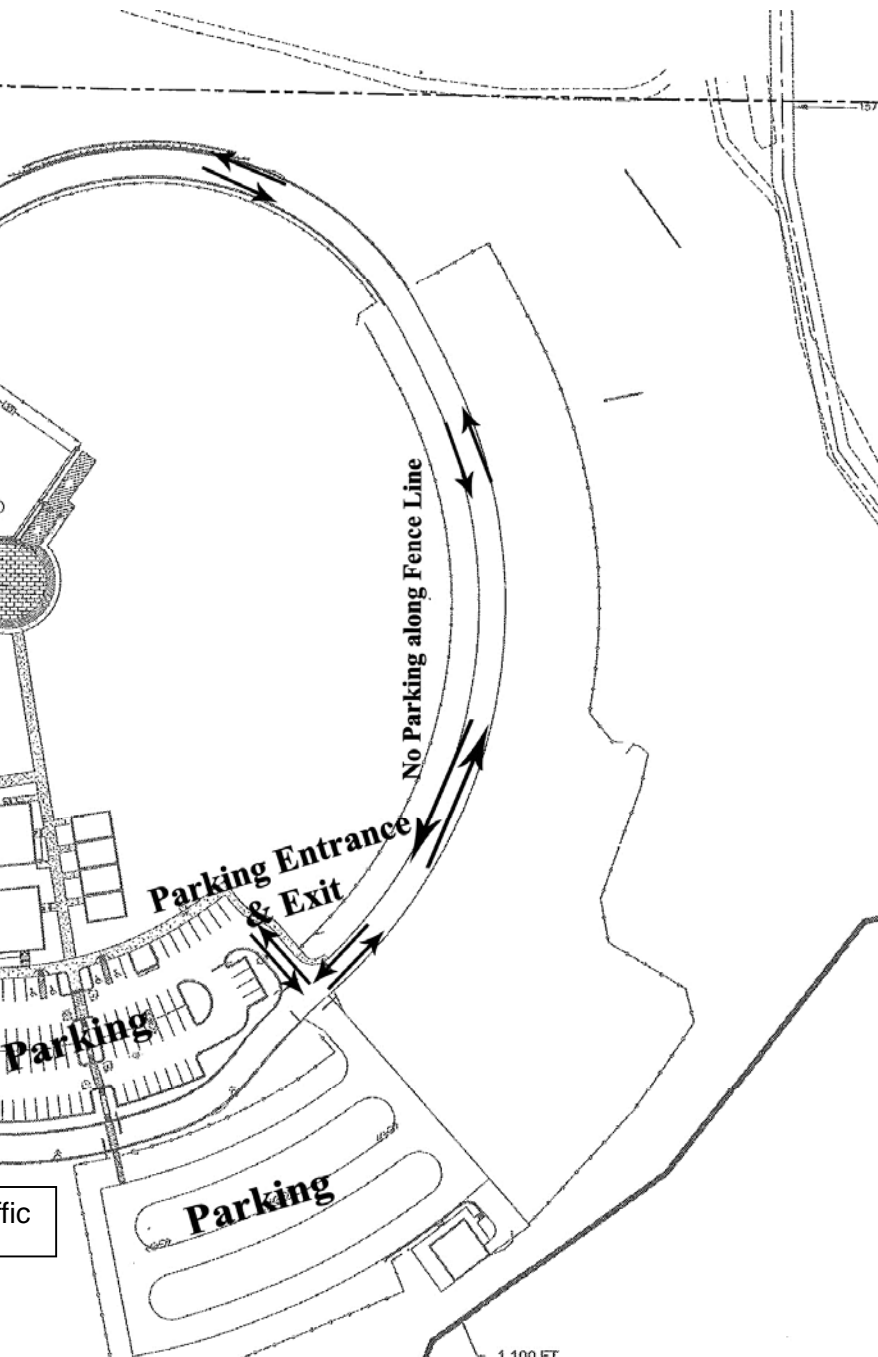
Faith Formation D



 MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD
CATHOLIC CHURCH

This area closed to traf

Drop-Off & Pick-up



Parking for Dismissal—Late sessions (6:30-7:45pm)

The campus parking lots will return to a normal Sunday traffic flow at 7:00pm, prior to dismissal for the late sessions on Tuesday & Wednesday. Parents may enter and exit through both entrances and park in either parking lot (only during dismissal for the late sessions). There is to be no parking along the fence line – you may continue to park in the grassy lot if you so desire.

PREPARATION FOR SACRAMENTS

The desire to fruitfully receive the Sacraments grows out of a lived relationship with Jesus Christ in the context of the Catholic Church. The period of sacramental preparation builds on the foundation of Faith Formation, and is in addition to it.

Parents have the God-given responsibility to present their baptized children to receive Confirmation, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist. No child or youth is automatically enrolled in the preparation process due to age, grade, or length of time in the Faith Formation program.

The parish process of preparation for each sacrament (Confirmation, Reconciliation, Eucharist) has several elements:

1. *Discernment and Registration*
2. *Preparation Sessions*
3. *Retreat*
4. *Celebration of the Sacrament*

Relevant due dates for these elements are supplied annually and made available on the parish website. There is a \$50 sacramental registration fee to cover the additional books and supplies. If there is a financial hardship, please contact the Director of Discipleship.

Process to prepare for Reconciliation and the Eucharist

Any child/youth who can distinguish between right and wrong (*usually* around 7 years old) and has entered his/her second consecutive year of Faith Formation may be presented by his/her parents to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

Discernment and Registration

Parents must discern whether their child desires to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, can distinguish between right and wrong, understands the difference between sin and accident, ordinary bread and the Eucharist. Questions for discernment and sacramental registration are provided on the parish website: www.oviedocatholic.org/eucharist.

Preparation Sessions

These sessions take a closer look at the words, actions, and parts of Reconciliation and the Mass, unpacking their meaning and application in daily life. At least one parent accompanies their child to each of these preparation sessions. They are in addition to regularly scheduled Faith Formation sessions and occur on scheduled Sundays in the Parish Life Center.

Morning Retreats

Retreats are an opportunity to step away from the grind of daily life and refocus on one's relationship with God. There are two morning retreats: one for Reconciliation and one for receiving the Eucharist. The mornings are filled with activities that focus the child on celebrating the Sacrament. A parent accompanies the child during each retreat.

Celebration of Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is received at the end of the morning retreat during a Reconciliation liturgy. Families are highly encouraged to join their child for the Reconciliation liturgy, and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Celebration of First Communion

The Eucharist is received for the first time in the context of a regularly scheduled Mass of the parish. Several Masses during the spring are chosen to celebrate with children and youth who have been preparing. Families must submit their top three Mass preferences for the celebration of First Communion. Forms will be distributed during one of the Preparation sessions.

Process to prepare for Confirmation

Any youth who is at least in eighth grade and has entered his/her second consecutive year of Faith Formation may be presented by his/her parents to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Discernment and Registration

Parents must discern with their youth if he/she is ready to make the commitment to live as an empowered disciple of Jesus Christ in the world. Questions for discernment and sacramental registration are provided on the parish website: www.oviedocatholic.org/confirmation.

Confirmation name

Candidates for Confirmation must choose a saint's name. This is the name that the Bishop will use as he confirms that candidate during the celebration of Confirmation. Each candidate must submit a paper describing the life of his/her chosen saint and his/her reasons to take that saint as a patron.

Sponsor

Sponsors chosen by the candidate must meet the requirements of Canon Law as laid out in Canon 893 and 874. The sponsor for any candidate may be male or female and is to be sufficiently mature and a fully initiated Catholic having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, & Eucharist; living a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. If married, the sponsor has been married in the Catholic Church and received the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. Mothers and fathers are not permitted to be Confirmation sponsors for their own child. The sponsor should be a practicing sacramental member of the Church over the age of 16 and a registered member of a Catholic parish community.

Sponsors must submit a Sponsor Eligibility form that is signed by their pastor and imprinted with their parish's seal. This form can be found on the parish website: www.oviedocatholic.org/confirmation.

One-Day Retreat

Candidates preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation are to participate in a day-long retreat focused on the Holy Spirit and Confirmation. The retreat is held at San Pedro Retreat Center in Winter Park.

Preparation Sessions

These sessions take a closer look at the words, actions, and celebration of Confirmation, unpacking their meaning and application in daily life. At least one parent accompanies their youth to each of these preparation sessions. They are in addition to regularly scheduled Faith Formation sessions and occur on scheduled Sundays in the Parish Life Center.

Celebration of Confirmation

The Bishop schedules the date for the parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Candidates and sponsors are expected to arrive early.

Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to leading your family closer to the heart and love of Jesus Christ.

If there is anything that the parish staff can do for you and your family as you move towards the Lord, please let us know.

We would be happy to help in whatever way that we are able.

“May you seek Christ.

May you find Christ.

May you love Christ.”

~St. Josemaria Escriva~

DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER

LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU
CALL ME TO FOLLOW
YOU AS YOUR DISCIPLE.

*Help me to drop my nets
and follow you.*

LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU
GIVE ME EVERYTHING I
NEED TO CARRY OUT
YOUR WILL.

Draw me closer to you.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU
SEND ME TO PROCLAIM
THE GOOD NEWS.

*Teach me to be faithful
in my words and actions.*

AMEN