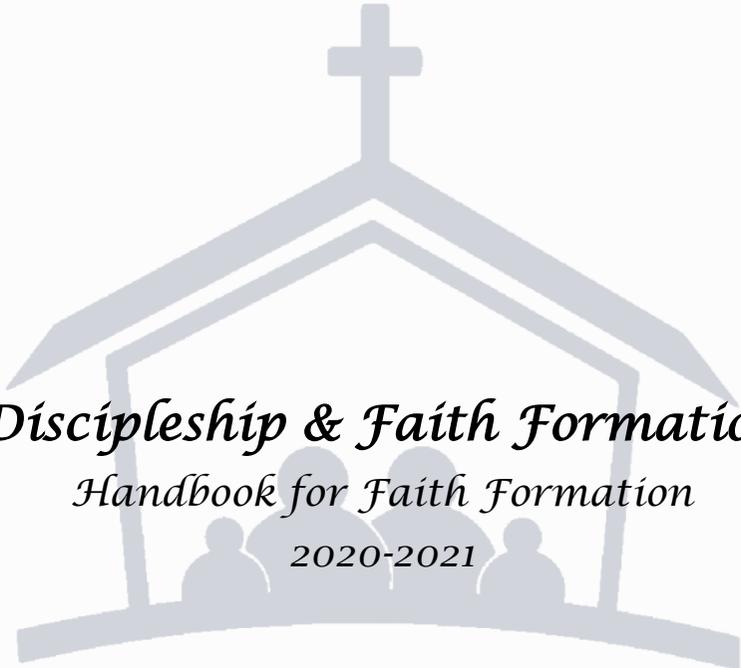




MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Empowered by the Eucharist

www.oviedocatholic.org



Discipleship & Faith Formation

Handbook for Faith Formation

2020-2021

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



MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Information

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church

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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 for 2020-21 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 Frances Stadler, Director of Faith Formation & Family Life.

Curriculum

The curriculum that has been chosen for our elementary grades 1-5 is: *Spirit of Truth* published by Sophia Institute Press. Grades 6-8 (Arise!) will be using *Encounter: A Middle School Bible Study* published by Ascension Press, *Edge* materials published by LifeTeen, and *The Search* published by Augustine Institute. 8th graders will also receive a personal Bible.

Textbooks

Textbooks are purchased for each child/youth and are used during the sessions. Some of the catechists provide folders. Please help your child/youth remember to bring the folder back weekly, if applicable.

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 iPod. Cell phones may not be used during session. If consistent discipline issues occur with a child/youth, the Director of Faith Formation & Family Life 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. The Tuesday sessions begin promptly at 6:00pm and Wednesday sessions begin promptly at 4:45pm and 6:30pm. Elementary grades 1-5 students will report directly to their assigned classrooms. Middle School Arise students will report directly to the Parish Life Center (PLC). Please ensure that your child/youth is arrives on time and is ready at the beginning of the session.

Absences due to illness or suspected exposure to COVID-19 do not count against the 3 absences allowed. If your child feels ill, under the weather, or is experiencing any of the following, please keep your child home:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Body aches that cannot be attributed to a specific activity such as physical exercise
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Exposed to someone who has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or is awaiting test results

COVID-19 Considerations

Due to the pandemic, the following protocols will be in place:

- Masks/face coverings are required by all students, catechists, and parents
- Face Shields are provided for Catechists
- Disposable masks are available for anyone who forgets theirs

- Hand sanitizer mounted at entrance/exit to all classrooms, the Youth Room, and the PLC (students will be asked to sanitize hands upon arrival and departure)
- Tables and chairs are arranged all facing the same direction, per CDC guidelines. No one is to move or rearrange them.
- Social distancing rules apply
- Classrooms and PLC are sanitized nightly and in between sessions

Cancellations

If there are any cancellations due to serious weather conditions or other concerns, an email communication will be sent to all families and the parish website 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 to the parents at the beginning of the Faith Formation year. In the event of sickness, behavior, or other issues, either the Director of Faith Formation & Family Life or the Assistant to Faith Formation 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. Tutorial available on 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. The MPB Faith Formation Parent Facebook page (private group) will be a secondary form of communication.

Creating a Safe Environment

All volunteers 15 years and older have gone through the diocesan-mandated *Safe Environment* process which includes an FBI background check and fingerprinting. 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 Faith Formation & Family Life. The

Diocese of Orlando mandates the annual presentation of the “Circle of Grace” program. More information will be sent to families as the date of the in-class presentation approaches.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Arrival and dismissal for Faith Formation has a different traffic flow than on Sundays.

Arrival

All children/youth should arrive in time to be in their assigned location for the scheduled start of Faith Formation (Tuesday: 6:00pm, Wednesday: 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 **5:15pm—6:30pm** on Tuesdays and **4:00pm—7:00pm** on Wednesdays 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 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 assigned location. **Children must be escorted all the way to their assigned location and are not permitted to be in the parking lot without adult supervision.** 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.** Please do not move the cones. 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. Elementary grades (1-5) students should be taken to the Narthex. For safety reasons, children **may not** go directly to their classrooms – the doors will be locked and the catechist will not open them. Middle School Arise! students should proceed to the PLC.

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—Tuesday session

The campus parking lots will return to a normal Sunday traffic flow at 6:30pm, prior to dismissal for the Tuesday session. Parents may enter and exit through both entrances and park in either parking lot (only during dismissal). There is to be no parking along the fence line – you may continue to park in the grassy lot if you so desire.

Parking for Dismissal—Wed. 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.** Please do not move the cones. 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.

Parking for Dismissal—Wed. 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 session on Wednesday. Parents may enter and exit through both entrances and park in either parking lot (only during dismissal for the late session). There is to be no parking along the fence line – you may continue to park in the grassy lot if you so desire.

FAMILY BASED FORMAT

This format of Faith Formation is parent-led and is accomplished primarily at home. This format allows for flexibility, however, it still requires discipline to set aside time and do the lessons in a timely manner.

Each family enrolled receives workbooks for each child and instructions for parents to present the lesson. After each chapter lesson has been completed, the child takes an assessment. These assessments demonstrate progress and understanding of the material. If a child has special learning needs, alternate arrangements can be made for assessments.

In addition to following the lesson plans, families are expected to participate in “Feed Your Faith” which is described below. The orientation for this format will be August 27, 2020.

FEED YOUR FAITH

This is a parish-wide evening for the whole family to share a meal, learn more about an aspect of the faith, pray and enjoy the company of other parishioners.

“Feed Your Faith” evenings are held bi-monthly on a Thursday evening from 5:30pm-7:15pm (at the latest). The evening begins with dinner for the whole family, followed by a brief interactive lesson, continues with a hands-on activity, and ends in communal prayer. Please note that due to the pandemic, these evenings might not include dinner or might be offered virtually. Parents will be notified of the format in advance of the event. The schedule of dates and topics for 2020-2021 is listed in the back cover of this handbook.

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 Enrollment*
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 enrollment fee to cover the additional books and supplies. If there is a financial hardship, please contact the Director of Faith Formation & Family Life.

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 designated 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 usually held at Most Precious Blood.

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 evenings during the week 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

