



SAINT ANN'S  
A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

2025-2026

# Faith Formation for Grades K-6

St Ann's Roman Catholic Church  
Diocese of Syracuse, NY

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Hello Parents!

Welcome to St. Ann's Faith Formation for children in grades K-6!

Most of you know that last year was my first year as the Director of Faith Formation. While I had a lot of learning to do, I think it was a wonderful year, and I was so blessed to get to know as many of your little disciples and as many of you as possible. This year will be an opportunity to get to know everyone even more as we continue to build our community.

We are excited to begin another year filled with faith, spirit, and joy as our youth continue to learn and grow within our parish community. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to spend time with your children and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with your family. The Church reminds us that parents are the first and most important teachers of faith. Our program is designed to support and accompany you in this sacred responsibility. If you need any resources, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I will be sharing things I hope are helpful along the way!

For our curriculum, we use Finding God (Loyola Press), which helps children grow in their understanding of who God is, why He created us, and how deeply He loves us. It also teaches how God's free gift of grace, combined with our intellect and free will, helps us to grow in relationship with Him and to see His presence in all things. For our Second Grade First Communion class, we use Loyola Press's God's Gift curriculum to prepare children for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

It is God's will that we each enter into a lifelong relationship with Him, nourished by the Sacraments, prayer, and service. We are privileged to walk with you in forming your children in the Catholic faith and encourage your family's active participation in parish life. Mrs. Dentler will be organizing many events for families to participate in, so look for those emails in your inbox!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by phone, text, or email. We ask for your prayers and support as we journey together in faith this year!

This year we have been analyzing safety and added some changes, two examples follow: All classrooms and individuals involved in Faith Formation will have walkie talkies to be able to communicate with each other easily. We will also be locking the Parish Center when the classes are in session (when the doors are locked anyone can leave but nobody can get in without a key). We will continue to make any necessary changes for safety.

Blessings,

Renee Laux

<b>Purpose Statement</b>	St Ann’s K-6 Faith Formation (FF) embraces the mission given to us by Jesus to make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19). With your constant care, our mission is to help your children love the Lord God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love their neighbor as themselves, by teaching and living the Gospel message of Jesus faithfully handed down by the Catholic Church from the beginning. We hope to exemplify a love of God that leads to Christian discipleship resulting in service to one another in the family, the parish community, and to the world around us.
<b>Parent Responsibilities and Expectations</b>	<p>Parents have the primary responsibility for the religious formation of their children. By working with you, we hope to achieve our mission. The formation of your child as a disciple of Christ is brought about by having an active faith life in your family, which includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.</li> <li>2. The Sacrament of Reconciliation.</li> <li>3. Praying with your children.</li> <li>4. Discussing the Catholic faith with your children.</li> <li>5. Participating in parish life.</li> </ol>
<b>Student Expectations</b>	<p>To help your children in Faith Formation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review each lesson with them and complete at-home assignments.</li> <li>2. Ask them about what they learned in class and if they have any questions.</li> </ol>
<b>Student Expectations</b>	<p>Our catechists love the Lord and volunteer their time and talent to support parents in teaching the Catholic Faith. This task is both rewarding and challenging. To be effective, we appreciate your support in setting these behavioral expectations for students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be courteous and respectful.</li> <li>● Be engaged and attentive.</li> <li>● Complete assignments.</li> <li>● Students must wait outside the classroom if the catechist is not present.</li> </ul>
<b>Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist</b>	<p>Faith Formation for second graders prepares children to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, therefore we often refer to the second-grade class as “the Sacrament Class.” First Reconciliation is January 10th, and First Holy Communion is April 25th. Preparation for these Sacraments begins in kindergarten. Students enrolling in the Sacrament Class are expected to have at least one prior year of Faith Formation (if your student does not, please contact us). If you have a student older than 2<sup>nd</sup> grade who has not received these Sacraments, please contact us.</p>
<b>Class Location, Time and Attendance</b>	<p><b>Grades Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th are held in Lynch Hall classrooms. Grades 3,5 and 6 classes are in the Parish Center.</b> All classes are held on <b>Sunday morning from 9:00 am to 10:00 am</b> with Mass following at 10:15. Attendance at Mass is essential as is faith formation class to grow in faith, hope and charity.</p>

**Arrival and  
Dismissal**

**For students in Lynch Hall:**

**Arrival:** Please park and escort your child into Lynch Hall to their classroom. Please use entrance numbers 2 and 3 on the attached map (entrance 1 goes to a classroom).

**Dismissal:** Please park and meet your child at the classroom door. Mass starts at 10:15am so the parking lot could be busy.

**For students in the Parish Center:**

**Arrival:** Please drop your child off near the entrance to the Parish Center. Students will be greeted at the door and directed to their classroom. If you arrive after 9:05am the door will be locked, so please be on time and if you are late, someone will be in Lynch Hall who can let your child in.

**Dismissal:** Please park and pick up your child in the gym in the Parish Center (this is extremely important for the safety of the children). Mass starts at 10:15am so the parking lot could be busy.

**Prayer**

Each class will begin and end with prayer. Depending on grade level, students will learn the different forms of prayer: praise, petition, thanksgiving and contrition. These prayers can be found in the Catholic Prayers section of your children's textbook. Prayer is communicating with God; it is an act of love that unites us with God. Jesus taught about the necessity to pray without becoming weary (Luke 18:1) and we encourage parents to say these prayers with their children every day.

**Special Needs**

If your child has any special needs including physical, sensory, cognitive, or social / emotional disabilities please let us know so we can better serve your child. We will make every effort to accommodate a child with special needs.

**Cancellation of  
Classes**

If classes need to be cancelled for any reason, an email will be sent to parents ASAP.

**Communication**

We are here to accompany you on your family's faith journey. We communicate to parents primarily through email. You are also encouraged to contact me by phone, text or email anytime.

**Renee Laux** [rlaux@syrdio.org](mailto:rlaux@syrdio.org) or 315-706-1409

For current information about the K-6 program, go to <https://saintannschurch.com/k-6/>.

**\*If a student becomes ill during a class, parents or the emergency contact will be notified.**

## Volunteers

Volunteers are always welcome! Parents may volunteer in a number of ways including as a teacher or teacher's aide, administrative help, help providing snacks and/or setting up for special occasions. All volunteers must attend a safe environment training session held by the Diocese of Syracuse. It is a requirement of the Diocese of Syracuse that no adult can be in the classroom without being trained (see details below). **We could really use some help if someone would like to make coffee at the coffee station in the morning or help greet people when the children arrive or are dismissed in both Lynch Hall and the Parish Center.**

## Curriculum

The textbooks for grades K-6 (excluding grade 2) are entitled **Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts®** published by Loyola Press. The second-grade Sacramental class uses textbooks entitled **God's Gift: Reconciliation** and **God's Gift: Eucharist** published by Loyola Press. In addition, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students receive 2 booklets entitled **My Own Mass** and **My Own Reconciliation**. This curriculum helps a child to start a life of intentional discipleship and is rooted in Scripture, Catholic doctrine, and Ignatian spirituality. Through this curriculum, children are offered a model of catechesis that embraces technology, responds to the ongoing invitation to enter into a deeper relationship with God, and encourages them to find God in all things. The Subcommittee on the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found the doctrinal content of these manuals, copyright 2013, 2016 and 2021, to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

## Safe Environment

All clergy, religious and employees of the diocese, as well as any volunteer who comes into contact with children, are required to take Safe Environment Training. This training teaches how to build and maintain safe environments for our children to protect them from abuse. The link to the training schedule is listed below: <https://syracusediocese.org/safe-environment>

All Catholic dioceses throughout the United States must provide age-appropriate Safe Environment training for children and youth in parish catechetical programs and Catholic schools. In grades K-6 we teach the **Circles of Care** lessons to students, which have been approved by the Diocese of Syracuse. These lessons teach students about appropriate and inappropriate boundaries and behaviors by peers and adults, the students' right to remove themselves from uncomfortable situations, and the importance of informing a parent or other trusted adult when something is not right. An overview of the Safe Environment Training Program and grade level lesson plans can be found online at:

<https://syracusediocese.org/circles-of-care>

Parents can request their children be exempted from this training, in which case they will be offered the grade-level materials to work with their children at home. **Circles of Care** is scheduled for all grades K-10 during the class on **December 14th, 2025**. The opt-out form is attached.

**Class dates:**

Sunday Mornings 9-10 am

September 28

October 5, 19, 26

November 2, 9, 16

December 7,14 (Circles of Care Lesson)

January 11, 25

February 1,8

March 1, 8, 15, 22

April 12, 19

**First Communion Extra Dates:**

January 10th 12-2pm: Jesus Day: First Reconciliation and Make Banners

April 19th: First Communion Practice during normal class time

First Communion: Saturday April 25th (time to be determined)

**Classrooms and Teachers:**

Kindergarten: Lynch Hall Room 2: Kim Kalil

1st Grade: Lynch Hall Room 5: Eileen Dunsmore

2nd Grade: Lynch Hall Room 1: Joe and Felicia Henneberry

3rd Grade: Parish Center (gym): Deepa Thalappillil/ Sharon Ross

4th Grade: Lynch Hall Room 3,4: Jackie Alex/Sharon Forbes

5th Grade: Parish Center: Kristin Nicoll/Donna Bovalino

6th Grade: Parish Center: Theresa Sinnett/Katie Harris