

St. Joseph Parish

& St. Vincent de Paul Mission

9961 Elk Grove Florin Road • Elk Grove, California 95624-2560 • (916) 685-3681 • STJOSEPH-ELKGROVE.NET

Frequently Asked Questions about the Faith Formation Program

When do sessions begin?

Both English and Spanish Faith Formation sessions begin with our parish celebration of **Catechetical Sunday** on September 18, 2011. Our catechetical year theme throughout the United States is, “*Do This in Memory of Me.*” Catechists and assistants will be commissioned at the 9:00am, 10:45am and 1:00pm Masses. Families are encouraged to join in the celebration at one of these Masses, which recognizes those volunteers who have responded “YES” to the call to serve our parish, your child and family in the transfer of the faith. By participating in one of these Masses, you show your support and acknowledge the partnership between your family, the catechists and the entire parish community.

English sessions (Pre- Eucharist - 8th) begin Tuesday, **September 27** or Wednesday, **September 28** with an opening celebration that all parents are invited and encouraged to attend. **Confirmation sessions** will be designed and scheduled throughout the sessions year and require the participation of the parents in the formation of their child. **Spanish sessions** begin Saturday, **September 24**, for all grades and sacraments.

My child needs to prepare to receive their First Holy Communion. What do I need to do?

All sacrament programs are a minimum of a two-year process, open to all families registered in our parish, and require the participation of the parent(s) in the formation process. The second year of formation includes sacramental formation for the First Sacraments of Reconciliation (confession, penance) and Holy Communion. Please enroll your child by completing the Enrollment Worksheet, specifying which session day and time would be your first and second choice. We also ask you to include a copy of your child’s Baptism certificate at the time of enrollment. A \$10 sacrament fee will be collected along with your family’s financial commitment for the session year. Parents will be provided with a schedule of dates when the parent and child formation sessions will take place.

My child needs to prepare to receive Confirmation. What do I need to do?

All sacrament programs are a minimum of a two-year process and are open to all families registered in our parish, and require the participation of the parent(s) in the formation process. Preparation for Confirmation is offered during the 7th and 8th grade years. Teens interested in sacramental preparation for Confirmation should enroll in 7th grade sessions by completing the Enrollment Worksheet, indicating their first and second choices. We also ask you to include a copy of your child’s Baptism certificate at the time of enrollment. A Sacrament Fee will be collected at the beginning of the 8th grade year (second year of preparation), to cover the costs of the retreat and annual Diocesan Conference, along with your family’s financial commitment for the session year. Parents will be provided with a schedule of dates when the parent and child formation sessions will take place.

Who will teach my child?

The short answer is You, the parent. At the Baptism of your child, you promised to raise your child in the faith of the Catholic Church. You have become a member of our parish community and turn to us to support your efforts in catechesis. To that end, we rely on the graciousness of our fellow parishioners to step forward, many being parents themselves, to enhance your current formation efforts in the home. *Therefore, the parents are expected to complete the enrollment process. Grandparents, friends or neighbors can not “sign up” your child for Faith Formation. In addition adult education and family spiritual development will be made available at our parish and at the Diocesan pastoral center.*

How do I stay connected and know what is happening in Faith Formation and our Parish?

Participate in Sunday Mass and pick up a parish **bulletin** each week. You can always contact a member of our Faith Formation Staff. We also recommend you check our website, www.stjoseph-elkgrove.net often for updates and upcoming parish events and offerings. Reviewing the bulletin online, especially the Catholic Faith Formation (CFF) section, and checking the family calendar will also help. Communication may also be strengthened by emails and letters sent to you from your child’s catechist and/or members of the formation team. Once sessions begin, a large white board will be set up each week near the entrance of the classrooms by the parking lot. Please check the information posted each week.

What is the family financial commitment for Faith Formation sessions?

Each year, sessions are held from September through May. Your yearly financial commitment can range from \$85 to \$180 based on the number of children you enroll. We also encourage families to participate in our parish weekly envelope program. By doing so, you ensure a commitment to your family’s faith development and participation in weekly parish Eucharistic celebrations.

What happens if I cannot meet my financial commitment for this year?

We are willing to work with you to meet this commitment. We are always saddened by families that do not enroll their children in Faith Formation based on the inability to cover their financial commitment. We at St. Joseph are always willing to work with families. If you are not able to make your financial contribution in one payment during our registration process, there is a 3-time installment plan for you to follow throughout the year, with one-third of the total commitment made at the time of enrollment. Keep in mind that 95% of the 450 families honored their financial commitment in 2010-11. We are blessed! Please contact Nancy Kesthely directly to discuss your family’s situation.

When do I register?

2011-2012 registration will run from **Monday, August 22 through Friday, September 2.**

The hours will be as follows:

Monday through Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm, only.
Evening hours on August 30 and 31, from 5:00pm-8:00pm.
On site registration after all Sunday Masses on August 28.

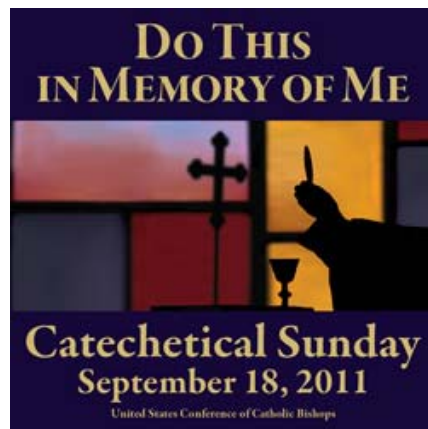
Onsite Registration will take place on Sunday, August 28
after all Sunday Masses in the
St. Catherine and St. Juan Diego Rooms.

Session lists, indicating
session day and time for your child(ren)
will be posted on August 15 and September 12.

Catechists and assistants will be commissioned on

Catechetical Sunday, September 18

9:00am, 10:45am and 1:00pm Masses



OPENING DAY CELEBRATION

(Pre-Eucharist through 8th grade)

Tuesday, September 27 and Wednesday, September 28

3:30pm / 5:00pm / 6:45pm sessions

More questions or concerns? Please contact Nancy Kesthely in the parish office at 916-685-3681, ext. 26 or nancy.kesthely@parishmail.com.