

S T . J O S E P H P A R I S H

St. Joseph Catholic Church – 9961 Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624-2560
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church – 14673 Cantova Way, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683



CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION 2009 – 2010

“The word of God in
the life and Mission
of the church”

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Does my child need to attend Faith Formation every year? We encourage your child to participate each year, as it is a good way to connect with parish life. Actively participating also enhances your Sunday Mass experience. Additionally, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops has established standards and vocabulary for children in each grade level from kindergarten through eighth grade. These standards provide a foundation for continuous formation. Children preparing for sacraments, First Holy Communion or Confirmation, are expected to participate in our two-year process. If you have a scheduling conflict or a family situation that requires special attention, you will need to meet with a member of the pastoral staff before sessions start. Please indicate this request on your registration form so a staff member may contact you directly.

When do sessions begin?

English sessions: K-6th grade start on Tuesday, September 29th and/or Wednesday, September 30th. Confirmation orientations will be in the evenings on September 29 and 30.

Spanish sessions: begin on Saturday; October 3rd for all grades and sacraments.

Who will teach my child? The short answer: You and the members from our parish! As a parent, you will remember that when you had your child Baptized you agreed to be the primary person to help pass on the faith to them. *Therefore, the parents are expected to complete the registration process. Grandparents, friends and or neighbors can not “sign up” your child for Faith Formation.*

As you seek out help from our parish we are glad to share our resources for your family’s faith development. Volunteer parishioners, serving as catechists, conduct weekly sessions. A family friendly calendar of events and programs for the upcoming year has been designed by the Pastoral staff. A number of guest speakers will be joining us this year. And of course, all the parishioners who celebrate weekly Sunday Mass will be providing an experience and direction for your child and family to follow.

Why is a family photograph included in registration this year? We want to get to know you and your family! Your photo will only be used internally and will also help our new pastor get to know our parish family quicker! The request for a photo is meant to help enhance a sense of community. It is not required to complete the registration process, but we highly encourage families to submit one.

What does it cost for Faith formation sessions? Each year, sessions are held from September through May. Your yearly financial commitment can range from \$85 to \$200 based on the number of children you enroll. As a parent, you will also be asked to complete the time and talent sheet of your registration forms. 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 Sunday Liturgy. *(please continue reading below...)*

What happens if I cannot meet my financial commitment for this year? We are always saddened by families that do not enroll their children in Faith Formation based on the ability to pay for the registration fee. We at St. Joseph's 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 an installment plan for you to follow throughout the year. We can also find additional parent/ family volunteer opportunities which would allow you to contribute your time. Keep in mind that 94% of 450 families honored their financial commitment in 2009. We are blessed!

My child needs to prepare to receive their First Holy Communion. What do I need to do? All sacrament programs are a two-year process and are open to all families registered in our parish. Families would need to register a child by completing the family forms in the registration packet as well as using our "K-6" form. Please indicate, where appropriate, that your child has not yet celebrated the sacrament. The registration fees are the same per family, depending on the number of children registered. Parents will be invited to an orientation which will cover all the expectations and components of the sacrament process here at St. Joseph in October.

My child needs to prepare to receive Confirmation. What do I need to do? All sacrament programs are a two-year process and are open to all families registered in our parish. Families enrolling their child in the first or second year sessions, would need to register their teen by completing the family forms in the registration packet as well as the "Teen Orientation" form. The registration fees are the same per family, depending on the number of children registered. *Parents and teens* will be asked to participate in an orientation evening here at St. Joseph in late September.

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 to read each week. The Bulletin is also online at our website. Communication will also be strengthened by emails and letters sent to you from your child's catechist and/or members of the pastoral team. Once sessions start, a large white wash 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 happens if I have concerns with faith formation sessions? Please let us know. You may schedule a time to speak with a member of the Pastoral Staff at anytime as we view our roles as a partnership with the family. We welcome input and suggestions and are willing to work with you to explore options for your family.

**Onsite Registration will take place on Sundays, August 23rd and 30th
after all Sunday Masses in the St. Catherine and St. Juan Diego Rooms.
Please stop by to meet the Pastoral staff and catechists!**

**Session lists, indicating session day and time for your child(ren) will be
posted by September 13 in the vestibule.**

We are happy to assist your family!