

St. Joseph's Youth Program Handbook & Registration

2020 - 2021

Grades: K – 12th

Mission Statement: Welcoming all children and their families to encounter Jesus, equipping them to serve God and one another through relationships, prayer, education, and action, and sharing compassion and forgiveness with them and our Church – our large, loving family.



Stephanie Nemec

St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Coordinator of Evangelization &
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Parish Office 402-336-1602

Family Faith Formation & JH/HS Programs

“Start children off on the way they should go and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.” – Proverbs 22:6

Family Faith Formation

Disciples are not solely created from Wednesday night religious education programs; they are created from the works of Jesus Christ through friends and family and community members. Opportunities to foster disciples outside of the will be provided throughout this year’s Family Faith Formation program. This program is a form of religious education that encourages and supports parents as the primary educators of their children, instead of replacing them as previous religious education models have done. Once a month, the program provides spiritual teachings for both children and adults to help parents be successful in teaching their children the Catholic faith. Also, periodically, the program offers a family community service project to help parish families answer God’s call to serve one another.

JH/HS Program - FIAT

The catechesis program for JH and HS students is designed to form disciples through mentorship, activity sessions, video studies, praise and worship, family resources, small group discussions, and prayer. JH and HS students will meet on Wednesday evenings. Confirmation preparation is offered every other year and is held once a month on Wednesday evenings for students 13 and older.

Yearly Information & Curriculum

Family Faith Formation class is held once a month. All PreK-6th grade students and their families are encouraged to attend each session from 6:00-7:00pm at the Chambers Community Center. The session falls on the 1st Wednesday of the month, unless notified otherwise. After the session, students will be provided a take-home packet. It is highly encouraged the students complete the packets with their families at home and bring them to the next class session.

Confessions will be offered throughout the program during Advent and Lent. Dates, times, and locations will be determined at a later date.

Second graders will participate in sacramental preparation during the catechetical sessions. They will have workbooks/materials with lessons to complete at home. Families are also highly encouraged to provide additional sacramental preparation at home by reviewing prayers and Eucharist receiving processes with their children.

Mass

Children are expected to participate in and serve at mass. Students who will be fourth graders will be trained to be a server for mass by the parish Deacon.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and participation is highly encouraged.

**If you and your child are to be absent or leave early, please notify the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis at the Parish Center (402-336-1602) in advance. Attendance will be taken at each class and any unexcused absences will require a home call to discuss the student's absence. If there are 2 unexcused absences or the child and parent/guardian irregularly attends, parents/guardians will be asked to meet with the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis to discuss individual situations. If the problem is not resolved, parents/guardians may be required to meet with the pastor for further discussion.

Additional Information

Please have your child arrive no earlier than 5:45pm at the Chambers Community Center. **Children need to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.**

If a session is to be canceled due to weather, please listen to KBRX, check St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Facebook page, or call the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis at the Parish Office (402-336-1602). Alerts of cancellations will be provided via Flocknote. **It is highly encouraged all families sign up for Flocknote to stay updated on pertinent parish information.

Prayer

Prayer is an important aspect of the students' and teachers' faith because it promotes a relationship with Jesus Christ. There is not enough class time work individually with the children on prayers. Parents are asked to help their child pray the age appropriate, traditional prayers he/she is learning in class through daily repetition.

Homework

Children will be expected to actively participate in class work, discussions, activities, readings, and mass. Although children are not meeting in classroom settings every week, they are still highly encouraged to be completing religious education learning at home. The materials to promote at-home-learning will be provided by the Church. Parents are strongly encouraged to actively assist in the completion of homework, and students should bring completed assignments to the next scheduled class session. Mistreatment or loss of resources/materials, such as textbooks, will result in a monetary charge.

Sacraments

Sacramental preparation is an important part of family faith formation. Second grade students will receive 2 sacraments: Reconciliation and Eucharist. Students and parents will be required to attend all preparation trainings for these sacraments.

The preferred time for Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Omaha is between the ages of thirteen (eight grade) and eighteen (before the senior year of high school). Requirements established by the Archdiocese for Confirmation include: regular class attendance, service projects, reports, and retreats. St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's provides confirmation preparation and celebration every other year. More information about Confirmation will be provided.

Fundraisers

Throughout the year, the youth program will host fundraisers to promote community fundraising and service and will result in increased funds to the youth programs at St. Joseph's. Students and their families are highly encouraged to help with fundraisers. More details will be provided when fundraisers are scheduled.

Community Service

Community service is an important aspect of the Catholic faith. Jesus was generous with gifts and service, and to become disciples of Jesus, it is imperative that students follow in his footsteps. Students and parents will be encouraged to participate in service projects throughout the year.

Dress Code

Children are expected to dress appropriately for sessions, mass, and special events (ex. Reconciliation, First Communion, etc.), which includes appropriate attire for the weather. Inappropriate attire will result in a meeting with the parents/guardians. Dress demonstrates one's attitude, poise, and cleanliness.

Discipline

As Catholics, we are called to love each other as Christ loves us. Therefore, children and their families are expected to respect their teachers/adult leaders and peers (be kind, courteous, and well mannered). Children and their families are also expected to respect their surroundings. Accidental damage to facilities requires report of damage to the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis immediately. Non-accidental damage will result in a monetary charge. Any inappropriate behavior (unruliness, shouting, foul/offensive language or gestures, bullying) will be addressed based on the following guidelines:

1st Offense: The teacher/adult leader will handle minor discipline problems in the classroom/small group and schedule a meeting with a parent/guardian to discuss solutions and courses of action.

2nd Offense: A meeting with the child, parent/guardian, teacher/adult leader, Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis, and pastor will be scheduled if problems persist to discuss alternative solutions.

3rd Offense: If all efforts have failed, and the child is unwilling or unable to comply or correct the problems, the parent/guardian, teacher/adult leader, Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis, and pastor will meet to discuss the child's continued participation in the program and/or another agreed upon course of action.

Lost & Found

Items found should be given to the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis, with whom they can be claimed by the owner(s).

Accidents

All accidents in the community center, on the community center grounds, at St. Joseph's church should be reported immediately an adult leader, the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis, and/or the pastor.

Safe Environment & Drug Free Policy

St. Patrick's requires a high standard of safety and moral integrity. Weapons (ex. guns, knives, etc.), sexual explicit materials (ex. Videos, pictures, etc.), inappropriate behavior, and the use of tobacco, alcohol, and/or drugs are not permitted at youth group activities. Violation of this policy will result in immediate parental involvement and appropriate disciplinary action. All students and faculty are expected to treat each other with respect during and at all youth group events. All faculty must be Safe Environment Certified. For more information about Safe Environment Training, contact the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis.

Circle of Grace is a youth education component of the Archdiocese of Omaha's Safe Environment training. It serves the dual purpose of educating and informing youth about the value of positive relationships with God and

others during class sessions. More information can be found on the Archdiocese of Omaha or by contacting the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis.

Reporting Student Law Violations

Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students or faculty should be reported to the police and the student's parent(s) as soon as possible. As per St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's policies, if any of the following behaviors occur on school grounds or at a school/youth group sponsored event, proper authorities will be notified immediately:

- Knowingly possessing illegal drugs or alcohol
- Assault
- Vandalism
- Theft of school and/or personal property
- Automobile accident
- Any other behavior that threatens the health and/or safety of students, staff, or other person

Fire/Tornado/Lockdown Safety Procedures

All students and teachers/adult leaders will be provided appropriate safety procedures established by St. Mary's Schools, St. Patrick's Parish, and St. Joseph's Parish and will be required to practice such procedures to ensure student and teacher/adult leader safety.

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I, the parent/guardian, have reviewed the 2020-2021 Handbook with my child. I understand the need of the established standards in providing safe and effective youth group programs and events. I commit to uphold and adhere to the standards, and I accept the responsibility to take an active role in my child's religious learning and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Please return signed document to the Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis or to your child's adult leader.

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St. Joseph’s Youth Program 2020-2021 Registration Form (PreK – 12)

Parent Information

Parent’s Name _____ Email address _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone #'s: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Youth Information

Youth’s Name	Grade	Baptism?	Eucharist?	Confirmation?	Cell #	Medical Concerns
_____		Y N	Y N	Y N	_____	
_____		Y N	Y N	Y N	_____	
_____		Y N	Y N	Y N	_____	
_____		Y N	Y N	Y N	_____	
_____		Y N	Y N	Y N	_____	
_____		Y N	Y N	Y N	_____	

**Unless otherwise noted, we will add you to a Flocknote Group that sends phone updates about cancellations & events.

What is the best phone # for this Group? _____

____ YES, I grant permission in the event I/my child is injured or becomes ill for medical care to be administered to me/my child and to use my/our personal insurance to cover such incidents. I hereby give permission to the physician selected to render medical treatment deemed necessary and appropriate by the physician.

____ YES, in the event it comes to the attention of the archdiocesan and/or parish chaperones that my child complains of illness, I grant permission for non-prescription medication (such as Tylenol, lozenges, etc.) to be given to my child.

The undersigned do hereby release, forever discharge and agree to hold harmless St. Patrick’s & St. Joseph’s Parishes and the Archdiocese of Omaha from and against any and all kind of liability, claims, demands, lawsuits, and expenses of any kind arising from personal injury, sickness, death or property damage of any kind whatsoever which may be incurred or suffered by the undersigned and/or the undersigned’s minor child(ren).

The undersigned further agree to indemnify and hold harmless St. Patrick’s & St. Joseph’s Parishes and the Archdiocese of Omaha and its respective members, officers, directors and employees, agents, sponsors and promoters from any and all liability, claim, loss, damage, cost or expense and waive any such claims against persons or organizations arising directly or indirectly from or attributable in any action or omission to act of any such person or organization in connection with the sponsorship, organization and execution of the youth ministry events on St. Patrick’s/St. Joseph’s property or in the vicinity of O’Neill/Chambers/Amelia, NE (restaurants, cookouts, etc.).

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____

Cost: \$0 Donation to offset educational materials: _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 Form of Pay _____