

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Religious Formation Year



**Enclosed is an overview of our program this year as well as our
calendar of dates and events.**

Saint Luke Religious Formation Program Overview

2023-2024

Curriculum Overview:

- This year we will be using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies program for all non-sacrament grades. Grades 2 & 8 will use Gospel Weeklies as a supplement but use Dynamic Catholic as their main program. Each week students will have a packet which will be brought home once they have completed it in class. Classes will begin with an opening prayer. This will be an opportunity for students to learn their basic prayers and practice prayer intentions. The lessons are centered around our weekly Gospel and will provide opportunities for families to discuss the Gospel together at home. While the material will differ between grades in how it is presented, the underlying concepts for the Gospel will be the same. Weekly lessons may include videos, worksheets, skits, crafts or games to reinforce the lesson.
- Each grade K-7 will participate in Service Sunday one time. Each month will have a different grade participating.
- There will be 23 in person classes and 1 home assignment when classrooms will not be available during the Harvest Fair weekend.
- Family Mass is **required** every first Sunday of the month at 9:00, however we encourage attendance to mass every weekend. Each month a different grade will host the Mass. Hosting grades will participate with readings, petitions, greeters and bringing up the gifts. Monthly attendance and participation in Mass will deepen the connection for students of what we are focusing on in class and they typically have a sense of pride in having a part in Mass. Students should bring a food item to Mass to donate to our food pantry which serves the food insecure in our community.
- There will be no food or drinks permitted in the classrooms due to food allergies and safety. Students will need to finish any food and drinks from First Sunday Breakfast in the community room before coming to class.
- Please make sure students refrain from bringing toys to class. Cell phones for grades 6-8 must be left in the classroom basket during class or parents will be asked to hold onto cell phones during class time.
- ***NEW this year*** First Sunday Breakfast after the 9:00 am Mass will now be **hosted by the parents of the hosting grade**. Sign up sheets with more information will be provided later. If your child is in grade 8 they will host

Mass in October and parents will host breakfast. In the month of November 7th grade parents will host etc.

- ❑ Absences: Students are permitted to miss **no more than 4 absences** in the school year. When a student is absent, a make-up assignment will be sent home to complete.

Calendar:

- ❑ Provided in this packet is a calendar for the year which will also be shared via Google Calendar.
- ❑ Calendar is for all grades, and when an event is specified to a particular grade it will be noted.
- ❑ Faith In Action events for grade 8 are still being secured, so those dates will be added to the calendar shortly along with sign up sheets.
- ❑ Mandatory events are noted as well. These are requirements for successful completion of the grade.

Arrival / Dismissal:

- ❑ All students will go to their respective classrooms listed below between 10:05-10:15 am. Parents may not leave their children unless there is a teacher present in the room.
- ❑ Parents will not be permitted to enter the Religious Formation hallway until dismissal at 11:15am. At that time parents are asked to **line up single file at your child's classroom door and allow their teachers to dismiss students one at a time**. This allows them to confirm the approved person is picking them up and helps ensure the safety of all students.
- ❑ Students in grades K-6 may only be dismissed if picked up from a parent or person listed on the authorized pick up form. This may be a sibling in another grade, but an authorization form must be on file to do so. Students in grades 7-8 may be dismissed without a parent.
- ❑ Any student needing to be picked up before 11:15 must have a parent sign them out (Please try to avoid early pick up). Parents must first check in at the hall monitor station and Parish Catechetical Leader will get the student from their classroom. Parents are not allowed to go to classrooms during class hours to receive a child. Only those adults who have been Virtus trained may be in the classrooms or hallways during religious formation hours.

- Even though each classroom is a double room, for safety reasons pick up will be at the classroom number indicated below only.
- During Religious Formation hours emergency exits at the end of the hallway by Rooms 6 and 12 and behind the hall monitor station will not be permitted for entry or exit. Everyone should be using the double doors by the community room for all entry and exit. This will ensure the safety of all students and your compliance is greatly appreciated.

Grade K/1 (Sunday) Jordan Razza – Catechist Stephanie Cashin & Denver Razza – Catechist Assistants	Room 1
Grade K/1 (Monday) Alexandra Pearson – Catechist Dana Rossi – Catechist Assistant	
Grade 2 (Sunday) Jill Dillon – Catechist Anamika Martins – Catechist Assistant	Room 3
Grade 3 (Sunday) Susan Aitkin – Catechist Tammy Lo – Catechist Assistant	Room 7
Grade 4 (Sunday) Carol Taylor – Catechist	Room 5
Grades 5 & 6 (Sunday) Tracey Vizzo – Catechist Mikey Vizzo – Catechist Assistant	Room 9
Grades 5 & 6 (Monday) Jessica Purcell- Catechist	Room 7
Grade 7 (Sunday) Linda Hopper – Catechist	Youth Room
Grade 8 (Sunday) Mary Kay Caricato – Catechist Stephanie Mergenthaler – Catechist	Community Room B

Grades K-1, 3-6:

- Attend 23 classes
- Attend Family Mass each month and Host the Mass for their grade's month.
- Participate in Service Sunday for their month.

Sacrament Preparation:

Reconciliation & Eucharist – Grade 2

- Attend 23 classes
- Attend Family Mass each month and Host Mass in April
- Participate in a Blessing Cup Retreat – **December 17th 10:15-11:45 (Mandatory for Students & Parents)**
- Service Sunday - in April
- Parents have a **mandatory** meeting **December 10th 10:15-11:15** in Community Room A for Advent and **March 3rd 10:15-11:15** in Community Room A for Lent
- Family Banner project - **Due April 21st**
- First Reconciliation – **Saturday March 9th 10:00 am (Mandatory Students & Parents)**
- First Communion Rehearsal – **Monday April 29th 4:30pm (Students only)**
- First Communion – **Saturday, May 4th 10:00 am (Students & Parents)**

Confirmation Prep – Grade 7

- Attend 23 classes
- Attend Family Mass each month and host November's Mass
- Participate in Service Sunday with 8th grade students during Lent. Students will prepare Grab & Go meals in the Community Room for the clients at New Covenant Center. - **March 10th**
- Service Sunday – in November
- Saints Report – Students will select their Confirmation name and prepare a poster report with their Confirmation Saint. - **Due February 11, 2024**
- Service Sunday Reflection Paper - **Due March 24, 2024**

Confirmation – Grade 8

- Attend 23 classes
- Attend monthly Family Mass and sit in the blue chairs on the right side of the altar. **Students will sign the attendance sheet when they arrive in the gathering space.**
- Attend a Commitment Ceremony during the October Family Mass where students and parents will sign their petition to be confirmed. In March there will be an Acceptance Ceremony during Family Mass where Father Kumar will accept the students, confirming they have prepared and are ready to receive the sacrament.
- Host October Family Mass
- Participate in a Twilight Rosary during class (accompanied by our Youth Minister Deb Toner)
- Complete Sponsor form - **Due February 4, 2024**
- Confirmation Name form - **Due February 4, 2024**
- Participate in Confirmation Retreat – **Date TBD (March or April)**
- Participate in 3 of 7 offered Faith in Action opportunities. These may include going to a local soup kitchen / food pantry to help serve the less fortunate in our community. Here students will have an opportunity to stock the food pantry which clients shop at, prepare and serve meals. Dates and locations are being secured and will be posted soon for sign up. Signing up ahead of time will allow all students an opportunity to get their 3 (or more) opportunities fulfilled and lets the local facility know they can count on us to be there. Facilities include Gillespie Center in Westport, New Covenant Center in Stamford, Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport, and Malta House in Bridgeport. **We will need 2 parent volunteers for each event.**
- Complete Reflection questions about your Faith in Action service experience - **Due April 21, 2024**
- Parents are required to attend** two reflection meetings on **December 10th 10:15-11:15** for Advent in Community Room A and **March 3rd 10:15-11:15** for Lent in Community Room A
- Attend the Bishop's dinner and reflection at Assumption Church on **January 18, 2024**.
- 2 Grab & Go Service Sunday events in the Community Room. The first will take place on **December 17th** (during Advent) along with our Youth Group.

The second will take place **March 10th** (during Lent) with our 7th graders. More information to follow.

- Participate in Reconciliation on **March 8th at 6:30 pm** in the Church
- Confirmation Rehearsal (Students, Parents & Sponsors)– **Thursday, Date TBD**
- Confirmation (Students, Parents & Sponsors) **Saturday Date TBD**, waiting for approval from Bishop



Service Sundays:

Service Sundays give every student a chance to put their faith in action by helping those in our community who need it the most. We shine God’s light everytime we reach out and help someone else. Each grade will select their service project from a list of local charities that need our help. We will post updates on our bulletin board and Flocknotes to share their experiences. We encourage families to ask their children about their Service Sunday when their grade completes it. Below is a list of each grade and when to expect their Service Sunday to happen. Parents will get more information sent home if there are collections to go along with their service project.

October – All grades

Harvest Fair theme baskets. Each grade will have information sent home about the theme selected for their grade. Each Student is asked to bring in an item to go with

their theme. The baskets will then be assembled and raffled off at the Harvest Fair to raise funds for charities we support.

November – Grade 7

December – Grade 5/6 (Monday Class)

January – Grade 5/6 (Sunday Class)

February – Grade 4

March – Grade 3

April – Grade 2

Christmas Project - Grade K/1 (Sunday)

Easter Project - Grade K/1 (Monday)

Thank you to all our families for helping ensure we have a safe and successful school year building our faith community for our youth and our parish. This cannot be done alone and we look forward to working with you to help you, as you are the first teachers of the faith and we are here to support that.

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