

### **Purpose of Children's Faith Formation:**

Assist parents in teaching their children about the amazing love Jesus has for all of us. They will learn about the historical and present traditions of the Catholic Christian Church, as well as Jesus' mission to bring about God's kingdom of peace, justice, and communion; a kingdom where all will know they are loved by God. The most important thing we can teach our children is the following:

**"We must love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind.**

**We must also love others as much as we love ourselves." (Mark 12:30-31)**

### **Faith Formation Class Times:**

#### **CFP: K – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm

**Note:** Classes may be combined or cancelled if registration falls below 8 children.

#### **Volunteer opportunities:**

Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents with our children.

We are always in need of substitute catechists, bulletin boards designers, and various other odd jobs.

#### **CFP Fees:**

- **One child** = \$45
- **Two Children** = \$85
- **Three +** = \$110

#### **Fees:**

Registration fees allow us to purchase textbooks, Bibles, and other materials.

\*No one will be turned away, please email [kmckernan@holyspiritmo.org](mailto:kmckernan@holyspiritmo.org) if you are not able to afford tuition at this time.

### **Sacraments (1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & 1<sup>st</sup> Communion) Fee**

Each child in Sacramental Preparation \* \$20

\*There is an added supplemental fee for Sacramental Prep workshop materials. As stated above, we will NEVER turn anyone away if unable to pay.



### **Arrival and Dismissal Policies:**

To ensure the safety of the children, we have instituted the following policies.

**Arrival:** Children should arrive **no earlier than 5 minutes prior** to the start of the classes. We gather in the gym for community faith sharing. Parents should walk their child/children to the gym.

**Dismissal:** **Parents or drivers must pick their children up from the gym.** No child will be permitted to leave the building unless accompanied by an adult or teenager at least 16 years of age. If you have specific instructions regarding your child's dismissal, please contact us.

### **Inclement Weather and Cancellation Policy:**

Cancellations will be announced via email and on the parish website ([www.holyspiritmo.org](http://www.holyspiritmo.org)).

### **Accident Reporting and Medication Policy:**

Any accident or injury that occurs while a child is on church property will be reported in writing, by the catechist or adult volunteer, to the DRE. Parents will be notified of the incident. In the event of serious injury or illness, when the parent or emergency contact cannot be reached, the child will be taken to the Emergency Room at Lee's Summit Hospital. No Medicines will be given to any student while at CFP classes.

### **Fire and Tornado Procedures:**

No fire/tornado drills will be held during CFP classes.

All teachers will be given specific instructions on building evacuation and tornado safety procedures.

### **Community Service:**

All of the children and families are encouraged to follow in Jesus' footsteps and perform community service inside and outside of our parish. This year we will have many service opportunities available.

### **Sacramental Preparation:**

**Reconciliation:** In the fall of Sacramental Preparation students will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parents prepare their children for all sacraments. Our parish offers as its 2<sup>nd</sup> grade curriculum a Sacramental Preparation class. Catechists and our Director share with the children the lessons of God's forgiveness and love. First Reconciliation is received during the season of Lent.

**Eucharist:** In January, the children begin preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. As with Reconciliation, parents will attend parent gatherings and workshops with their children to help prepare them to receive this very special sacrament. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade curriculum focuses on the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and the gift the child will be receiving. Meeting dates and times are posted on our website [www.holyspiritmo.org](http://www.holyspiritmo.org). The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist is received in late April, early May.

*"Let the children come to me"*  
*Matthew 19:14a*

## **Our Curriculum:**

### **Curriculum Objectives:**

**Kindergarten** – Learning about God’s Love shown to them through good people and events in their lives.

**Grade One** – Learning how God found everything Good, God as Creator. Introduction to Reconciliation and God’s Forgiveness.

**Sacramental Prep (Second Grade)** – Learning that God is the True Vine; studying the sacraments Reconciliation and Eucharist.

**Grade Three** – Learning how we are Fishers of Men, studying the church and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Grade Four** – Learning about our Covenant with God; studying the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments.

**Grade Five** – Learning “I am the Bread of Life” – Worshiping God thru Mass, Sacraments, and Rituals.

Children’s Faith Formation is much more than simply “teaching religion.” While each lesson provides the children with a comprehensive understanding of our Catholic faith, we believe it just as important to learn how to live our faith and put our beliefs into action. Each week children will be challenged to put the Gospel into action. We use the Gospel Weeklies program to supplement this teaching. This program helps the children explore the Gospel reading through art, music, and activities encouraging them to learn in a way best suited to them. This important step will help the children to recognize that faith is not meant to be isolated or compartmentalized. Faith is meant to be lived.

### **Discipline Statement:**

We firmly believe that all children are gifts from God. We believe they deserve well-prepared lessons and effective classroom experiences. Positive reinforcement of good behavior is more effective than punishment of misbehavior. At the same time, we believe that students who disrupt class by their behavior lessen the opportunity for their classmates to learn.

*Consequences for classroom misbehavior might include:*

- 1) Service work around the church.
- 2) Conference between the student and the DRE.
- 3) Report of behavior to the parents



**“As parents, you are the first and foremost educators of your children. You must never forget that it is also the task of the whole family to serve the life of each its members. Through your ministry of education and your personal witness, you are for your children the first heralds of the Gospel message of love.” (Pope John Paul II)**

### **How can you help your child in their Faith Formation?**

1. Take them to Mass each week. 😊
2. Help your child to attend class regularly and to be on time.
3. Engage your child/children in discussion of topics covered in class.
4. Teach your child to pray anytime and anywhere.

**Note:** Your signature on the Registration Form verifies that you have read this booklet and agree to be governed by its policies. Address comments or concerns to Kathy McKernan at 537-6990 or [kmckernan@holyspiritmo.org](mailto:kmckernan@holyspiritmo.org)

In September 2002, the diocese began community education to teach the warning signs of abuse and to offer strategies for intervention. All priests, deacons, principals, teachers, coaches, youth ministers and volunteers who interact with children are required to attend the *Protecting God's Children* workshop. This is the first step in protecting our children. The goal of *Protecting God's Children* is to make adults more aware of the ways that children and adults interact, to learn the warning signs of abuse, to learn ways to prevent abuse, to learn strategies for handling suspicions of abuse, and to learn ways to respond to abuse. These workshops are open to the public and interested people are encouraged to attend.

For more information regarding *Protecting God's Children* go to the diocesan website at

<https://kcsjatholic.org/the-office-of-child-and-youth-protection/the-charter/>

### **What is the Circle of Grace Program?**

Through the *Circle of Grace* Program, adults assist children to recognize God's love by understanding that each of us lives and moves within a *Circle of Grace*. This is taught in a visual and real way by the following meditative prayer.



Imagine:  
Raising your hands above your head and  
bringing your arms slowly down  
keeping them outstretched.  
Extending your arms in front of you  
and then behind you embracing all of  
the space around you knowing that  
**God** is in this space with you.  
Slowly reach down to your feet.  
This is your  
**Circle of Grace.**  
You are in it.



Because this concept includes all senses it allows children to identify uncomfortable situations long before inappropriate behavior may occur. The *Circle of Grace* program teaches children to seek help from a trusted adult, reinforcing God's presence in their real life, struggles. It will educate and empower children to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others.

### **Reporting Requirements for Child Abuse or Neglect**

Parish officials, including Directors, catechists, volunteers, and non-professional personnel, are required by Missouri law to report or cause to be reported, any actual and/or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect. The Diocesan policy for reporting child abuse or neglect is as follows:

- For suspected current or past abuse:
  - Call **Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 800-392-3738** (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
  - Call local law enforcement or 911 and
- Contact Joe Crayon, Diocesan Ombudsman at 816-812-2500 or [crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org](mailto:crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org) if the hotline call involves clergy, a diocesan employee or volunteer.

#### **Luke 18:15-17**

*Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."*

