

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FAITH FORMATION PARENT INFORMATION

Gina Drost, Director of Faith Formation

Kindergarten - 5th Grade
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Marie Marshall, Youth Minister

6th - 12th Grade
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ATTENDANCE POLICY

We would like to reaffirm that all of our parents and guardians are teachers of the faith. When your child(ren) were presented for baptism, a promise was made to raise them in the Catholic faith. The Catechists are here to assist you and your child(ren) on that faith journey.

We anticipate that your child(ren) will regularly attend Faith Formation sessions. We expect no more than three (3) session absences, **unexcused**. We know that sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that keep your family from meeting their commitment. For this reason, the following are considered **excused** absences when notification is given in advance that your child(ren) will not be attending session:

- Family illness
- Family tragedy
- Sacramental celebrations
- Custody arrangement conflicts

Notification of absence can be left on our Faith Formation Attendance Message Line at 910.791.1003. **If your household has custody arrangements that conflict with our Faith Formation schedule, please notify our Faith Formation Office before September so that arrangements can be made to keep your child(ren) on track with the other children and youth in their session.* If your child is absent for two consecutive weeks from Faith Formation and you have not contacted us via the Absentee Line, you will be notified by the Director of Faith Formation or the Youth Minister.

Sacramental Preparation

Ongoing faith formation is required of every Catholic household, especially in order to be considered catechized and prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Regular attendance at weekend liturgies is expected. Since proper catechesis and study is required for the reception of the Sacraments, if your child has more than three (3) **unexcused** absences for Faith Formation sessions during a Pre-Sacramental or Sacramental year their preparation or reception will be moved to the following year.

We look forward to walking with your child(ren) on their faith journey. If we can help in any way please let us know.

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BEHAVIORAL AGREEMENT & DISCIPLINE POLICY

Student Behavior Agreement

As a member of Immaculate Conception Church, I will uphold the values of the Catholic Church and the Children and Youth Faith Formation program. I will maintain a Christian lifestyle and remain actively involved with the Faith Formation Process as well as Church events.

I will be responsible for my actions and behavior so that it does not interfere with anyone else's enjoyment or involvement of events and activities. I will cooperate with adults and other youth, remembering to be respectful of them and the rules at all times. I will do my best to make healthy choices and support my peers in all of my communities so they will also make healthy choices. I will strive to live as an example of the Gospel to my peers and to others I encounter.

ICC Children & Youth Faith Formation Discipline Policy

1. If a youth continues to be disruptive after being given a verbal warning in class, they will be sent to the Director or Youth Minister.
2. If a youth continues to be disruptive after being spoken to by the Director or Youth Minister, the parent or guardian of the youth will be called.
3. If a youth continues to be disruptive, a parent will be required to accompany them to class.

Additional Guidelines

1. Youth are permitted to carry cell phones with them, but they are to be put away during session time. If these items or other personal devices are used at any point during the session without permission, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day to the youth or directly to a parent. Should a parent need to get in contact with their child, they should call the ICC **De Sales Faith Formation Center** office at 910.791.9857.
2. Strong or objectionable language is strictly prohibited at all times by anyone participating in ICC events whether on or off campus.
3. Appropriate and modest dress should be worn at all times. Suggestive or objectionable clothing will not be permitted. If a piece of clothing is deemed inappropriate, the youth will be asked to correct it or parents will be called to bring appropriate attire.
4. As a sign of respect, hats and hoods are not to be worn inside the building.
5. Bullying, harassing, or instigating behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Should this behavior be observed, parents will be contacted immediately to meet with the Director of Faith Formation or the Youth Minister.
6. Weapons of any kind, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, vapes, matches, lighters, fireworks, etc. are all strictly prohibited. Any youth found in possession of any of these items will be sent home immediately. No exceptions.

STEWARDSHIP EXPECTATIONS

As a stewardship parish, Immaculate Conception depends on good stewards to make our ministries successful. There are endless possibilities for activities, events, and opportunities for our children and youth, but none of them can be made possible without the support and assistance of our families and households. Parents/guardians are expected to assist in some way so we can do everything possible to expand our program. Let's teach our youth the ways of stewardship through example. Scheduled activities and events will only take place if the required number of parent and adult stewards are met.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

Children & Youth will be dismissed from the side of the DeSales Center that faces the parking lot. They will gather on the sidewalk or in the grass along with their Catechists to wait for their rides.

Catechists will be in the parking lot and along the pick-up area to direct the vehicles and the youth. Please follow their direction, being mindful that we all want things to move as quickly and as safely as possible. Please be prepared to give the Catechist the name and grade of the child(ren) you are picking up to move the process along.

Please pull up as far as you can in the line to allow for the maximum number of drivers to pick up their children at a time. Youth will only be allowed to approach their ride after all vehicles are safely stopped. Please do not stop halfway or attempt to pick up your child without pulling all the way forward—your child (ren) will walk to meet you.

Youth will only be allowed to enter vehicles in the pick-up area. They will not be allowed to cross the parking lot or leave the pick-up waiting area to join a ride parked anywhere else until after the line has finished. Please do not attempt to pull out and around the line of cars still waiting to pick up youth unless directed to do so.

Please be patient, your cooperation means a fast and safe process!

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Immaculate Conception Church follows the example of New Hanover County Schools. Therefore, if they cancel after school activities during the week, then any faith formation related activities or events are also canceled.

In the event of Faith Formation sessions on Sunday being canceled, we will:

- email families at the address we have on file with the parish
- post an announcement on the parish website at www.iccwilm.org
- post to our Facebook page
- send a push notification through the Parish App

We encourage all families to use their best judgment. If your area is not safe to travel, please stay home and notify us by the absentee line at 910.791.1003.

CHILDREN & YOUTH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Children's Faith Formation (CFF)

- Children Kindergarten to 5th Grade
- Meets alternate Sunday afternoons (opposite Youth Ministry) from 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- Year 1 (usually 1st Grade) is a pre-requisite for the reception of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist
- Year 2 (usually 2nd Grade) is a requisite for the reception of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Those parents seeking to have their child receive the Sacraments will have additional Preparation Sessions

Youth Ministry (YM)

Junior Youth Ministry (JYM)

- Youth 6th to 8th Grade
- Meets alternate Sunday afternoons (opposite Elementary CFF) from 12:00-2:00 pm
- These youth are invited to participate in Deanery and Diocesan wide events, community stewardship opportunities, and social gatherings

Total Youth Ministry (TYM)

- Youth 9th to 12th Grade
- Meets alternate Sunday afternoons (opposite Elementary CFF) from 12:00-2:00 pm
- These youth are invited to participate in Deanery and Diocesan wide events, community stewardship opportunities, and social gatherings
- Level 1 (usually 9th grade) is a pre-requisite for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Level 2 (usually 10th grade) is a requisite for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Those parents seeking to have their youth receive the Sacrament will have additional Preparation Sessions