Children's Faith Formation - Parent Information

As you embark on this faith journey with your child(ren), take the long view. This isn't about them passing a test or remembering every detail of something. We are doing this together so that your child grows in their faith, a lived faith that they embrace and cherish every day of their entire lives. A faith that is the foundation of how they make decisions and choose their actions and responses. A faith that lives in both their heads and hearts.

Parent Notes

Faith Formation Website – www.saintannefaithformation.org

For detailed instructions, see the web site Home page and use the links inside the boxes which are shown as titles for Gospel Reflection and Finding God.

- Do not sit at a desk and make this look like homework or school!
- Use the Finding God and/or scripture reading as bedtime reading and/or for school reading minutes.
- Talk in the car, at a meal, while you are folding laundry, or making dinner, whenever you have a minute to talk or your child has a question.

Finding God

You can do each session at one time or, as needed, you can fit this into daily life by sectioning out the Finding God pages as per the sections in each Session. Use the instructions found on the website to help with this.

- Prior to attending a Family Faith Event, your child should read the text for the sessions being covered at the event; see the calendar for those session numbers.
- Your child does not need to bring their book or anything else to a Family Faith Event unless requested in the registration email for that particular event.
- When your family attends a Family Faith Event, your child is welcome to do the session review for the learning it provides, however, the review does not need to be submitted.

Scripture Reflection – My Mass Journal

- To help children learn how to listen to God's Word, we are using a Mass Journal where children can write their understanding of the weekly readings. They should attend Children's Liturgy of the Word when your family is at Mass. Children's Liturgy occurs at the Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses.

- To prepare for Mass, you can read the scripture before going so that Children's Liturgy of the Word is your child's second hearing of the scripture. You can do this Friday night or Saturday, it does not have to be immediately before Mass.
    - Find the Sunday scripture on the USCCB.org website, use the calendar.
    - Find the readings with child-friendly wording on BibleGateway.com. Put in the scripture citation and use the arrow to the right to find the Contemporary English Version (CEV) which is the Bible version used for the Children's Lectionary.
    - If you miss Mass a week, please use the preparation instructions above to locate the readings, discuss them with your child, and then have them write their thoughts.
- Share with them the Liturgical Calendar information near the front of their journal to help them understand the church seasons and the meanings of the different liturgical colors they will see in the church.
    - Note that the headers for each Sunday are colored to represent the liturgical season to help them make the connections.
- As much as possible, encourage your child to write their gospel reflection shortly after church so that they don't forget.
- Their Mass Journal should be kept at home so that there is less chance of it being lost.
- The Journal will be turned in at the end of the program year.

Attend and participate in Mass! If you show your child that faith is important, they will take it more seriously. Your child should participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word at either the 9:00 or 11:00 am Sunday Masses, you'll both be glad they did.

Spend time yourself connecting to faith in whatever way appeals to you – podcasts, daily reflections, reading the Bible, and participating in adult faith gatherings or Bible study groups.

Remember, YOU are the greatest influence on your elementary school child. Take this opportunity to prepare them to meet life's challenges and to live joyfully in God's everlasting love!