
YOUTH FORMATION HANDBOOK

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
2019-2020

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Diocese of Corpus Christi

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Baptism

Baptism of Children after Age 6 is required, and the child may be baptized after one complete year. Regular attendance as stated in this handbook is required. No more than 3 absences a semester. Parents and godparents must also attend the baptism preparation classes.

Please inform the Youth Formation Office at the start of the year that your child is in need of Baptism so that we may aide you in preparation and registration.

Requirements for Godparents

- Godparents *are to be practicing Catholics*. A child may have one Godparent (male or female) or two Godparents (one male and one female). Godparents may be as young as 16 years old. **NO** Non-Catholics (especially non-Christians) may serve as Godparents.
- Must be attending Mass on Sundays** and be registered in a parish.
- Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist.**
- If married**, Godparents must be married in the Catholic Church and not practice contraception. Marriage Certificate from the church must be presented when registering for baptismal class.
- If single**, must not be living with someone outside the state of matrimony (heterosexual or homosexual relationship). Sacrament certificates must be presented when registering for baptismal class.
- Must be in good standing with the Church.**
- Must not be involved in behaviors or in careers contrary to Catholic Morality (working at Planned Parenthood, worker or owner of an immoral establishment, an abortion practitioner, etc.)
- Must attend baptismal instruction class prior to the baptism.

If from another parish, godparents should bring a letter from their pastor verifying their suitability to serve as godparents.

As required by the Diocese of Corpus Christi, **Sacramental Preparation** is a two year preparation program in order to receive the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist.

First Penance

- Will be done in the first year of sacramental formation.
- **Four confessions** per year will be **required**
 - Confession will be held from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm on the following days:
 - October 14-15, December 9-10, February 3-4, and April 27-28.

Sacrament of the Eucharist

Students will be eligible to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the end of their second year of formation. If you are transferring from another parish, a letter from the previous parish documenting the formation received and any sacramental classes completed is required and should be turned in by the last day of October of the current year.

Children and parents are required to participate in the practice session scheduled for their First Communion.

Requirements:

1. Two year preparation
2. First year students are required to participate in the **Saint Fair**.
 - a. Students will research a saint, create a science board, and present their saints to the Little Flock Coordinator.
3. End of the Year Interview

Attendance

Attendance and participation in the Little Flock classes during the two sacramental preparation years is vital to the full knowledge required for reception of the Sacraments. Therefore, we are requiring that there be **no more than 3 excused** absences in a semester for those enrolled in Sacramental Preparation years 1 and 2. Absences will be excused only for serious situations like sickness or a death in the family.

Catholic school students attending private school are required to attend Little Flock sessions in order to grow in community within the parish. The diocese of Corpus Christi has set the minimum requirements for each parish and from there it is up to each parish to increase the requirement per the discretion of the pastor.

Sacramental Preparation at Home

A **letter of intent** to homeschool must **be turned in no later than the last day of October** of the current year for which your child will receive the sacraments & approved by Pastor.

A letter of intent should include the following & addressed to Coordinator of Little Flock:

- Parent or Spiritual Guardian Name and Contact Information
- Curriculum to be used for Sacramental Preparation
- Signed agreement to adhere to guidelines set forth by our Pastor, Fr. Vasquez as stated in this Handbook.

Requirements for Catholic school and home school students include but are not limited to:

- Sacramental Preparation Parent Meeting
- 4 confessions per year prescribed for Little Flock (documented)
- Participation in Little Flock St. Fair

Sacrament of Confirmation

Sacramental preparation is a two year preparation program before receiving Confirmation.

In order for a high school student at St. John the Baptist to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation they must:

- **Be registered for the Life Teen Program by September 30, 2019.**
- **Second year students:** Paperwork (copy of Baptismal Certificate, name of Sponsor, and saint name) must be turned in by **November 17, 2019.**

YEAR ONE STUDENTS

- Form of Intent to begin Confirmation Formation
- Must attend **Encounter Saturdays**
 - i. Students are required to attend two Saturdays a semester that will take place from 10:00 am – 5:30 pm.
 - ii. Fall 2019: October 12 and December 7.
 - iii. Spring 2020: February 1 and April 4.
- Parents **MUST attend at least two** of the **Parent Encounter Sessions**
 - i. Sessions will be held in the afternoon (1:00 pm- 5:30 pm) on the scheduled Encounter Saturday's.
- Must attend **Steubenville Conference**
 - i. Youth will have the opportunity to fundraise.

YEAR TWO STUDENTS

- Students are required to complete an entry to **Second Year of Formation Interview.**
- Attend Sunday evening **Life Nights** from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - i. Attendance Requirement: We encourage the teens to attend all Life Nights, as they are opportunities for catechesis, to build community, and strengthen their prayer lives. For this reason, confirmation students are asked to attend Life Teen during their second year of formation and are allowed **ONE excused absence per month.**

- Students are required to take part in **the designated Solidarity project of the semester** for a total of two during the 2nd year of preparation.
 - i. FALL: Saturday, December 14, 2019, St. Nick's Project in Youth Room at 10:00 am
 - ii. SPRING: Event TBA

Additional solidarity opportunities will be available, but will NOT complete the requirement.

- Complete **Saint Fair project** and present on November 20, 2019 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.
- Register for **Life Teen Retreat** by November 25, 2019 and attend the entire weekend retreat taking place on
- Youth are expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass.
- Although second year students are not required to attend Encounter Saturdays, they are encouraged to attend.