
YOUTH FORMATION HANDBOOK

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
2020-2021

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Diocese of Corpus Christi

Fr. Rodolfo D. Vásquez, Pastor

Jessica Sagers, Director of Youth Formation

Edge Coordinator

Little Flock Coordinator

(361)-991-4400 ext. 107

junderbrink@sjbcctx.org

Sky Creed, Coordinator of Teen Formation

Life Teen Coordinator

(361)-991-4400 ext. 106

screed@sjbcctx.org

Shelby Guthrie, Secretary

(361)-991-4400 ext. 105

sguthrie@sjbcctx.org

7522 Everhart Road Corpus Christi, Texas 78413

(361) 991-4400 ext. 1006

www.sjbcctx.org

Youth Formation Cell: (361) 739-7896

General Email: *youth@sjbcctx.org*

Youth Formation Website: *stjohnyouth.org*



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. Four supplemental lessons will be sent home during the Spring semester. Parents will review/discuss information with their child. 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** NonCatholics (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 5:30pm – 6:30pm on the following day(s):
 - October 20, February 9, and April 27.
 - Confession will be held from 5:00pm – 6:00pm on the following day(s):
 - December 15

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 no later than 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 Saint 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 October 4, 2020.**
- **First year students:** Must turn in copy of Baptismal Certificate notated with Sacrament of First Holy Communion **at time of registration.**
- **Second year students:** The following paperwork must be turned in by **December 14, 2020:**
 - Sacramental Information Form
 - Sponsor Verification Form
 - Sponsor's Notated Baptismal Certificate
- i. Guidelines for Sponsors are the same as Godparents found on page 3. *

ALL STUDENTS

- All Students are expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass.
- All youth are invited and encouraged to attend all programs of the Youth Formation program regardless of year of Formation.

YEAR ONE STUDENTS

- Form of Intent to begin Confirmation Formation
- Must attend **Encounter Saturdays**
 - i. Students are required to attend all Encounter Saturdays that will take place from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm.
 - ii. Fall 2020: October 10 and December 12.
 - iii. Spring 2021: January 23, March 27 and May 8.
- Parents **MUST attend at least two** of the **Parent Encounter Sessions**
 - i. Sessions will be held in the afternoon (1:00 pm- 6:00 pm) on the scheduled Encounter Saturday's.

YEAR TWO STUDENTS

- 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 5, 2020 – time TBA
 - ii. SPRING: Saturday, April 1, 2020 – time TBA
 Additional solidarity opportunities will be available but will NOT complete the requirement.
- Choose a Conformation Saint and complete **Saint Fair project** to present on **November 19, 2020** from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm.
- Register for **Life Teen Retreat** by November 30, 2020 and attend the entire weekend retreat taking place on **March 5, 2021 – March 7, 2021.**
- Second year students will be required to complete a Second Year of Formation Interview taking place from April 6, 2021 - April 9, 2021 & April 12, 2021 – April 16, 2021.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

In light of the global pandemic, we have set forth guidelines with which we will run Youth Formation this year. In order to maintain the safety and health of all in attendance we will take the following precautions during all levels of Youth Formation:

- For all in attendance it is highly encouraged that face masks be worn while on Church premises.
- Hand sanitizer is available in every room. It is recommended that upon entry/exit, that all participants sanitize their hands often.
- Surfaces will be sanitized at the conclusion of each event.
- If your son/daughter is feeling ill, we ask that you keep them home.
- In the event that a youth or immediate family member tests positive for COVID-19, we ask that you inform us immediately. Parents in the program will be informed immediately if this information is presented to us.
- The Youth Formation Staff, in conjunction with Father Vasquez, are committed to providing a safe place for community and faith formation for all youth at St. John the Baptist.