

**The Catholic Community of St. Stephen-St. Patrick
and
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cincinnati**

**Faith Formation
Handbook
2023 - 2024**



**Grade School
Middle and High School
Sacramental Program
Adult Education**

Sunday Mass Schedule

8:30 AM	Whitney Point
10:15 AM	Marathon
12:00 PM	OLPH

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Dear Family,

We are excited and pleased to welcome you to our Faith Formation program this year. We will be working on the theme *"The Way of the Gospel"* throughout the year. During the Faith Formation Year, we'll be inviting you to join us in your child's classroom, at a special event or to work with your children at home.

The first Faith Formation class for this fall will be held on Sunday 9/17/2023. Classes for all 3 campuses are held **immediately following the 8:30 AM Mass in the Church Hall at Saint Patrick's on Keibel Rd. Whitney Point, and last until 11:00 AM.**

***All children** entering Kindergarten - through High School (Confirmation) are welcome and encouraged to attend classes! **You will find the '23 – '24 schedule on pages 3 and 4 of this handbook.**

Classes are held an average of **2 Sundays per month.** Special Classes and Service Projects are scheduled for a few Saturdays as well.

For children ages 3 years – 2nd grade, a Children's Liturgy of the Word is offered.

We understand the commitments our students make outside of Church and always take that into consideration when planning our Class Schedule and events. Happenings involving local school districts are taken into consideration when the catechetical year is being planned. We do, however, ask that parents prioritize Mass attendance.

We encourage you to read this handbook fully to familiarize yourselves.

We appreciate your support and look forward to partnering with you this year. Please contact us with your questions or concerns.

Sherry Dee and Jackie Wright, Faith Formation Leaders, and your team of Catechists

Father James Serowik, Administrator

CONTACT INFORMATION:

****FACEBOOK CSSSP (Catholic Community of St Stephen St Patrick): we encourage everyone to join our Facebook page. This page is the main source of communication for families with children in our Faith Formation Program.** All news, changes, cancellations, reminders, and activities will be posted on this site.

Whitney Point Office: M–Th., 9:00 AM-12:00 PM 607-692-3911

Our Lady of Perpetual Help 607-863-4750

Marathon Church Hall (Sunday only) 607-849-3630

Whitney Point Parish Hall (Leave Message) 607-692-3357

Faith Formation Leaders, Sherry Dee – 607-759-1876 email: sdee@syrдио.org

Jackie Wright – email: jackiewright6@yahoo.com

Spiritual Life Ministry – Peg Orzel – 607- 372-7036 e-mail: porzel10@yahoo.com

RCIA - Kathy Cusick - Email parish office: ststephenstpat@syrдио.org

Open Hearts

Open Minds

Open Doors

Our parish communities are committed to providing quality Faith Formation for all parishioners. This “umbrella term” serves to include our Faith Formation Classes, Youth Ministry, Sacramental Programs, Children’s Liturgy

Of The Word and Adult Education. Our goal as a parish is to nurture the personal and spiritual growth of each person while seeking to draw him or her to responsible participation in the life, mission, and service of our faith community and beyond. We understand the importance of forming ourselves in the gospel message and see this as a lifelong process.

Our hearts, our minds and our doors are open to all! We recognize that each person has God-given abilities and talents. At the same time, there are disabilities and challenges – some visible, others invisible – present in every one of us. We collectively form the Body of Christ, and we all need one another. By forming a faith community together – sharing who we are, as we are – we believe that we learn from one another how to live our lives according to God’s plan.

Sharing in any aspect of our program is a wonderful way to grow in your own faith. **We invite all parishioners** to take an active role in these vital ministries. Parents are especially encouraged to choose at least one way in which to volunteer in our programs. Possible ways of being involved are listed on the back of the enrollment form. By our Baptism we are called to pass on the faith. By our Confirmation we are gifted with the grace to do so. It is easy to answer this call to service; and more rewarding than you can imagine!



CLASS SCHEDULE

We recognize the family as the ideal and most fruitful environment for Faith Formation. **Parents are their children’s primary teachers.** Through example, continuing education, participation in the sacraments and involvement in parish life, parents teach their children and young people how to follow Jesus through words and actions.

Kindergarten – High School (Confirmation)

Whitney Point 9:20-11:00 AM in the Church Hall for ALL classes, including Confirmation Classes.



Faith Formation Calendar - RD 080823

The calendar will be posted online and will be updated with the Revision Date as changes are made.

2023 - 2024

Faith Formation Calendar

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Regular Class	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September 04 Labor Day
September 17 Regular Class

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Regular Class (Safe Environment)	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Regular Class	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October 01 Regular Class (Safe Environmental Training - All Students)
October 09 Columbus Day
October 22 Regular Class

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Regular Class	6	7	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Service Project (+Parents)
19 Regular Class	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November 05 Regular Class
November 11 Veteran's Day
November 16 Service Project (Includes Parents)
November 19 Regular Class
November 23 Thanksgiving

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Family Advent Class	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Regular Class	11	12	13	14	15	16 Service Project & Parent & Lunch
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 03 Parents / Family Advent Class
December 10 Regular Class
December 16 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Service Project & Parent & Lunch With Parents
December 25 Christmas

Rev Date: 080823

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7 Regular Class	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17	18	19	20
21 Regular Class	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Free calendar created by [templatesdirectory.com](https://www.templatesdirectory.com)

- January 01** New Year's Day
- January 07** Regular Class
- January 15** Martin Luther King Day
- January 21** Regular Class

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Regular Class	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Regular Class Palm Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Easter						

Free calendar created by [templatesdirectory.com](https://www.templatesdirectory.com)

- March 03** Regular Class
- March 24** Regular Class / Palm Sunday
- March 31** Easter

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 First Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Regular Class May Crownings	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

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- May 05** First Communion
- May 12** Regular Class & May Crowning
- May 27** Memorial Day

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Family Lent Class	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday	15	16	17
18	19 Washington's Birthday	20	21	22	23	24
25 Regular Class Rite Of Enrollment	26	27	28	29		

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- February 11** Family Lent Sunday (Plus Parents)
- February 14** Ash Wednesday
- February 19** Washington's Birthday
- February 25** Regular Class - Rite of Enrollment - Presentation of the Word

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Regular Class	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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- April 14** Regular Class

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Graduation Mass	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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- June 9** Recognition For High School Grads - Both Churches

Rev Date: 080823

Faith Formation Guidelines

Students in grades kindergarten through 5 will use the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Program. During the weeks when there are no classes students and parents will work together on the weekly program and return the completed worksheets to their teachers at the next class. The children will participate in class prayer, discussion and activities, special liturgies, and service projects throughout the year. Please support their efforts.

Grade Kindergarten and 1

Parents: Life and faith are interwoven throughout each lesson as children are helped to discover what difference it makes to be a person of faith. Weekly handouts are sent home throughout the year so that you can review the lesson with your child. Bible stories are enjoyed this year. **New Prayers to know: The Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary and Glory Be.**

Grade 2

Parents: Encourage your child to share with you about all that he or she is learning in class. Children will be preparing for the celebrations of First Reconciliation and First Communion. **New prayers to know: The Our Father and the Act of Contrition**

Grade 3, 4 and 5

Parents: Help your child to develop a Catholic Christian conscience so they know right from wrong. Discuss some current events. This is a wonderful way to pass on your values. Service is such a vital part of our Christian life. Find ways as a family to reach out and help others. **New prayers to know: Spontaneous prayer: praying in their own words.**

Grade 6,7,8 and (9)

Parents: Encourage your child to share his or her thoughts about the homily with you. Attend a wedding, Confirmation, First Communion or Baptism and talk about the experience. **New Prayers to know: The Rosary**

A vital goal of young adolescent faith formation is the development of their relationship with God so that they may become confident and competent members of their families, Church community and society. The students will be using The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth. Our goal is to continue to enhance and encourage the spiritual growth of our youth. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the Creed (a statement of our Catholic beliefs), the Liturgy, Sacraments, Christian morality, and prayer.

Students in grades 9, 10 through Confirmation

The Confirmation Class will be using Decision Point from Dynamic Catholic. During class the students will participate in prayer, reading, writing, discussion, and activities to continue to grow in an understanding of their faith.

Parents: We realize how extremely busy our youth and families are and we acknowledge the tight schedules that the youth have, but at the same time we do emphasize the importance of having faith in their lives. It is essential that you continue to speak and act in a positive way in matters of faith and Church. Lifelong attitudes and habits are formed during these school years and we, as parents and teachers, have the responsibility of guiding our children in all areas of growth. Help him or her with time management and setting priorities. Your support, in words and action, is a positive influence during these important years. Please continue to participate in Mass together each week. Attending other Parish Services together will help you all to grow in faith.

During the year students will have an opportunity to participate in special liturgies, social events, and service projects both at Church and in the Community. Perhaps he or she would like to invite a friend to join into some of these events.

We really want to work closely with your family during these important years to help develop a firm foundation for adult spirituality.

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Sacramental Programs

It is required that Children must complete one year of classes prior to entering a Sacramental Program. Second grade, or older, are invited to begin preparing for these sacraments.

RECONCILIATION: Commonly referred to as Confession or Penance is a sacramental experience of God's forgiving love.

EUCCHARIST: Also called Communion is a sacrament of thanksgiving. When the community gathers at Mass we remember and celebrate our love for God and God's love for us.

*Students preparing for these two sacraments will require additional meeting times. This schedule will be provided separately directly to the parents.

CONFIRMATION:

*Preparation is a **2-year program**, beginning in September 2023, with Confirmation being celebrated in the spring of 2025.

*Students entering the 9th grade (or higher) this fall, meet the criteria for this special sacramental class. Please plan to register as this may be a teen's last opportunity to complete the classes.

Confirmation classes will be held on the same dates and times as all other Faith Formation class days (listed above). During these classes we will be preparing our youth for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

It is important that every effort be made regarding attendance by each candidate and all classes be attended by each candidate, as we will be covering the materials only once.

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Program Policies

Registration

All students must be registered to attend classes. A form is available for enrollment. Please remember to register early so that your child can begin classes on time and so that we will have the necessary materials available.

Attendance

Regular attendance is expected at all classes and special events. When special circumstances arise affecting attendance, please contact the Director of Faith Formation or your child's teacher to request make-up assignment. Teachers keep attendance records and parents will be contacted when necessary. For Whitney Point Campus, please call 692-3357 or email sdee@syrdio.org

Safety

*Parents of all students are asked to park their cars, walk into the building, and pick up their child at the end of class. This ensures adequate supervision and builds and enhances teacher, parent, and student rapport. Phone number for the Church Hall 607-692-3357
Cell Phone Number - Sherry Dee 607-759-1876

Cancellations

Every effort will be made to contact families informing them of the necessity to cancel classes due to the weather. You may also call the Director of Faith Formation for information. It will also be listed on our Facebook page.

Discipline

Respectful, cooperative, and courteous behavior is expected. Any problems will be handled through a partnership of parents, teachers, students, the Director of Faith Formation and Father Jim.

Fee

A registration fee of \$15.00 per student and a family maximum of \$45.00 help to cover the cost of supplies and books that are used. If you have any financial concerns, please contact the Director of Faith Formation and we will certainly work with you.

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Other Faith Formation Programs

Liturgy of the Word for Children is a special experience for children ages 3 and up. It is held each Sunday, during the 8:30 am Mass in Whitney Point. The children are dismissed from the congregation before the readings, and they gather in the worship area in the Church Hall. The readings and reflection are specially prepared for children. They receive their own "bulletin" so parents can discuss the message with their children. The children return upstairs after the homily to rejoin their families. No registration is necessary.

Advent and Lenten Events are unique opportunities for all ages and for the entire family. Parents will need to plan on attending with their children. Join us for refreshments and the sharing of several fun, easy, and creative ways to help explore and celebrate the true meaning of Advent and Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Vacation Bible School has traditionally been a one-week program held during the summer. It has not been well attended over the past few years. We are currently exploring new ways to provide a fun summer program for the children that will allow for a greater participation. Stay tuned....

Adult Education includes, but is not limited to, seasonal presentations, faith enrichment programs, RCIA for those interested in becoming part of our Catholic Faith community. These are wonderful opportunities for our faith formation and spiritual growth. Regional and diocesan opportunities are posted on the bulletin board and listed in the bulletin as they become available.

Family Enrichment: We as a Parish recently purchased a subscription to Formed.org which is a website offering faith based and family friendly reading and listening materials. It has everything imaginable from books to read and download, to music, videos, children's programs, etc. And best of all it is free for all materials.

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2023-2024 Family Faith Formation Enrollment Form *Please print*

Students' Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ M/F _____ Grade _____
Baptism: _____ Church: _____ City/State _____ Date _____
First Reconciliation: Yes ___ No ___ First Communion: Yes ___ No ___
Confirmation: Yes ___ No ___
Please note any special needs: allergies, hearing impairment, visual/reading disability, etc: _____

Students' Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ M/F _____ Grade _____
Baptism: _____ Church: _____ City/State _____ Date _____
First Reconciliation: Yes ___ No ___ First Communion: Yes ___ No ___
Confirmation: Yes ___ No ___
Please note any special needs: allergies, hearing impairment, visual/reading disability, etc: _____

Students' Name: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ M/F _____ Grade _____
Baptism: _____ Church: _____ City/State _____ Date _____
First Reconciliation: Yes ___ No ___ First Communion: Yes ___ No ___
Confirmation: Yes ___ No ___
Please note any special needs: allergies, hearing impairment, visual/reading disability, etc: _____

Do you give permission to use photos, on our church website, social media sites and/or bulletin, of your child participating in Faith Formation events?

We would use first names only. YES _____ NO _____

Usual Mass Attendance: Marathon _____ Whitney Point _____ OLPH _____

Home Address _____
Parent email address _____ Home Phone _____ Parent Cell Ph _____
Father's Full Name _____ Religious Affiliation _____
Mother's Full Name _____ Religious Affiliation _____

Emergency Medical Information

Emergency contact: neighbor, friend, grandparent etc if parent is unavailable
Name _____ Phone _____ Relationship _____
Doctor's Name _____ Town _____ Phone _____ Hospital Name _____
If I cannot be reached in case of an emergency, I give Sherry Dee, and the Faith Formation staff permission to authorize any needed medical treatment for my child.
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please use the back of this paper if you have any additional information you would like to share with us.

Program Fee: Each child \$15.00. Maximum family fee \$45.00 No child will be denied Religious Education due to an inability to meet the cost. Please advise the Director of Faith Formation of any financial difficulty.

Office Use: Payment date: _____ Amount: _____ Cash _____ Check Number _____ Fee Waiver _____

Please return completed form to the parish office (PO Box 711 Whitney Point 13862) or OLPH, place in the offertory basket or give to the Director of Faith Formation (Sherry).

Family Name: _____

The faith formation of a child is a whole parish responsibility. We welcome and need your help. Please check any area that you could assist us with. We will contact you with further details.

___ Classroom Teach / Catechist

___ Snacks

___ Classroom Assistant

___ Crafts

___ Attendance Keeper

___ Music / Special Liturgies

___ Seasonal Activities

___ Service Projects

___ Advent Family Day

___ Chaperone

___ Christmas Program

___ Driver

___ Lent Family Day

___ Mailings / Phone Calls

___ Easter Family Day

___ Chaperone for Annual Mission Trip

___ Vacation Bible School

___ Children's Liturgy

