

# **St. Ignatius Loyola Faith Formation Program**

## **Policies and Expectations**

*It is the goal of the Faith Formation Program at St. Ignatius Loyola and Immaculate Conception to work in partnership with parents, who are the primary catechists, to develop the Catholic faith in the children of our parish. As we instruct our children in the Catholic faith, we will help your child grow closer to God in their daily life and become more Christlike in their actions.*

### **Calendar:**

*Our calendar for the year is included in this packet. If for any reason the calendar needs to be changed, you will be notified either by a written note, e-mail, in the parish bulletin, or in our monthly newsletter.*

### **Faith Formation Class Times:**

**Grades K – 5** – Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Catholic Center

**Grades 6 – 8** – Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall

**Grades 9 – 12** – Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. at the Catholic Center

### **First Communion and First Reconciliation:**

*Preparation for the sacraments of First Eucharist and First Reconciliation will take place separately from the regular Faith Formation classes. These classes, which will be held on Saturday mornings, are open to second graders who have attended at least one year of regular Faith Formation classes in the parish. There will also be at least two required parent meetings.*

### **Attendance:**

*Regular attendance at Faith Formation classes is essential for your child's understanding of the Catholic faith and their growth in their relationship to God. In order for your child's faith to flourish and grow, however, Faith Formation classes are not enough. Weekly attendance at Saturday night or Sunday morning Mass is vital. We urge you to make this a priority.*

### **Our Sunday Mass schedule is:**

*St. Ignatius Loyola – Saturday at 5:00 p.m.*

*St. Ignatius Loyola – Sunday at 9:00 a.m.*

*Immaculate Conception – Sunday at 11:00 a.m.*

### **Youth Masses:**

*During the school year, we will periodically schedule Youth Masses. Our students in grades K – 12 will participate in the Liturgy, serving as ushers, altar servers, choir members, readers, and those bringing up the gifts. We ask that you make an effort to bring your child to these Masses so that they can actively participate in the Liturgy.*

### **Discipline:**

*We have been very fortunate here at St Ignatius and Immaculate Conception because the children who attend Faith Formation classes are usually very well behaved and respectful. However, on occasion, a student may experience difficulties with behavior.*

### **Our Expectations:**

- 1. All students are expected to be respectful of our volunteer catechists and all other students.*
- 2. All students should come prepared and ready to participate.*

3. All students should come with their ideas and an open mind.
4. Students are asked to not bring cell phones. We ask that cell phones be left at home, in the car, or with a parent during class. They are a huge distraction for everyone.

**Our Consequences:**

1. If your child comes to class with a cell phone, it will be taken from the student and placed in the office until class ends. It will be returned to the **PARENT**.
2. All other discipline issues: First offense – warning.
3. Second Offense: The child will be asked to fill out a discipline reflection sheet concerning the problem.
4. Third Offense: The parent will be called.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word:**

Beginning in October, we will begin Children’s Liturgy of the Word at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass. This is open to students in grades K – 5. During Mass, a volunteer catechist will lead the children to the Parish Hall for a lesson on the Sunday First Reading and the Gospel.

**Field Trips:**

Occasionally field trips are planned for students. When a field trip is scheduled, parents must give written permission for a child to participate. This permission slip will need to be signed before your child can leave the church property. These slips will be sent home at least a week in advance for your signature.

**Parking Lot Safety:**

When we dismiss classes, especially at the elementary level, we keep the children on the porch or in the building until a parent arrives. With so many children being picked up, our parking lot can be very chaotic. For the safety of all, please be very watchful of parents and children who will be walking to and from the building and/or crossing the road.

**Inclement Weather:**

In the case of inclement weather, please be aware that Faith Formation classes may be cancelled. If the public schools are closed or close early on the day of Faith Formation classes due to poor weather, all Faith Formation classes will also be cancelled.

**Special Needs:**

Please be sure and let us know if your child has any health concerns or allergies. There is a place on the registration form to note these health issues.

**Curriculum:**

Our K – 12 Faith Formation curriculum is based on the curriculum developed by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Marquette. The K – 8 curriculum was fully implemented in our parish in the fall of 2009. The high school curriculum was released this past spring. Enclosed in this packet you will find the curricular component entitled Expectations of Parents for students in grades K - 8. If you wish to see the entire curriculum for your child’s grade, you can access it on the Diocese of Marquette’s website at [www.dioceseofmarquette.org](http://www.dioceseofmarquette.org) or you can request a copy of the curriculum from the Faith Formation Office at the Catholic Center.

The Diocese of Marquette is also committed to the safety of the young people entrusted to our care and has developed lessons on Safe Environment. One of the components of the Safe Environment curriculum is Formation in Christian Chastity. This program, developed by the Diocese of Harrisburg, relies mainly on parents as the primary educator of their children. Our Faith Formation Program, however, is also required to teach lessons on this topic in grades 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8. You will be notified when we do this.