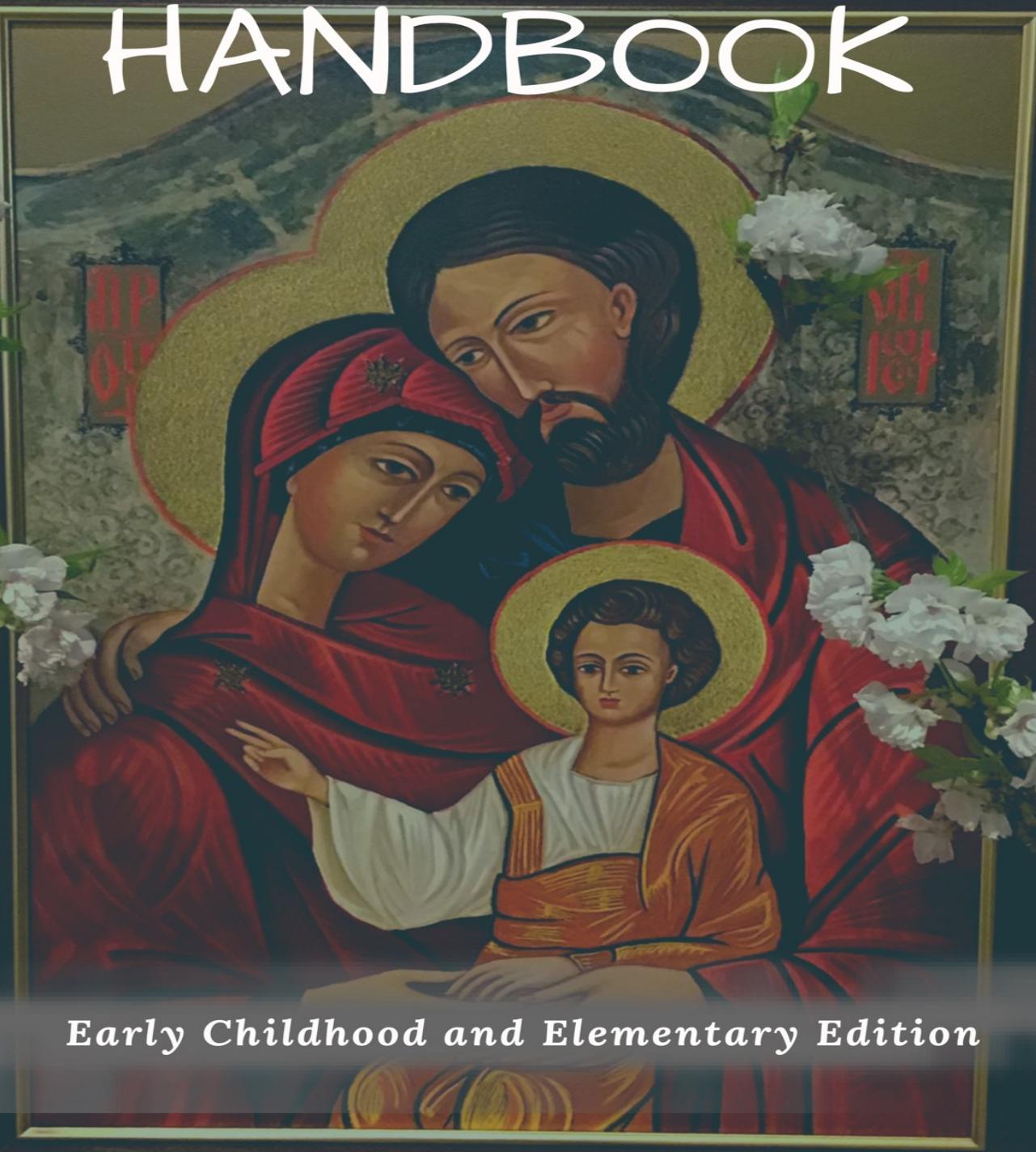


ST. JOSEPH PARISH FAITH FORMATION

2019-20 FAMILY HANDBOOK



Early Childhood and Elementary Edition

6180 E. WILLOW STREET
LONG BEACH, CA 90815
(562) 598-0519
WWW.STJOSEPHLB.ORG

Welcome

Dear Families:

The Faith Formation Staff of St. Joseph Parish welcomes you to our Children Faith Formation Programs. We are very pleased to have your children registered in our program, and we look forward to working closely with you and your children during this year. To serve with love - our faith formation programs live out our goals to welcome, provide spiritual nourishment, foster peace and justice, and encourage service to others.

Our mission is to deepen the students' relationship with our loving, just and merciful God, to increase their knowledge of Faith and Church, to enrich their prayer practices and provide opportunities to serve the community. This is done primarily through classes, taught by Catechists, who are assisted by aides and parent volunteers. As your partners in the religious formation of your children, we strive to provide a welcoming, loving environment in which we can supplement what you are already teaching by your example.

It is our desire to assist you in the spiritual, as well as the educational growth of your child, and ultimately your entire family. It is through prayer and active participation in the sacramental life of the Church that we can grow together and ensure that our children learn what it is to know and live the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

We look forward to getting to know you better and we invite you to be an active participant in our faith formation programs as well as in the St. Joseph Catholic Community. We hope this "Parent Handbook" helps you become familiar with our program. **Please Read it carefully** and call me anytime regarding your child's Faith Formation. On behalf of St. Joseph Parish, it is our pleasure to serve the families of our Parish.

Yours in Christ,

St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation Team

2019-20 Movement For A Better World Holiday Help Family Adoption

Once again, St. Joseph Faith Formation will be sponsoring a Movement for a Better World Family. It allows us to give thanks to God for all He has given us and then share from the gifts we have been given. We are asking Faith Formation families to help provide for our adopted family with food items, supplies toys and blankets throughout the year. Each class will be assigned items to bring during each holiday. The holiday schedule is below:

Holiday	FF Collection Date	Family Delivery Date
Thanksgiving	November 17, 2019	November 23, 2019
Christmas	December 8, 2019	December 14, 2019
Easter	March 29, 2020	April 4, 2020

We are looking for 3 families to make one of the holiday deliveries. Please see or email Michelle (michelle@stjospehlb.org) to sign up.



The **Family Mass** provides opportunities for everyone to actively celebrate Mass. Participating in special roles in the liturgy helps children and adults alike to develop an understanding and appreciation for the Mass and Catholic traditions. We will be coming together as a Faith Formation family at the following four 9am Sunday masses:

October 27, 2019 December 15, 2019
February 2, 2020 March 22, 2020





FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM POLICIES

FAMILY ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY MASS: Parents have the responsibility of sharing their faith with their children and to bring them to Mass every Sunday in order to show them the importance of having God in their lives. Coming together as a family to Mass every Sunday is a faith obligation for all Catholic families.

CLASS ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES: It is very important that your child attends his/her class every week. If a child arrives later than 5 minutes after the class start time for the Early Childhood/Elementary and Jr. High Faith Formation Programs he/she will be considered absent.

Sacrament Prep Students are allowed only FIVE (5) absences. If more than 5 classes are missed, the year will not count towards sacramental preparation. Please inform the RE office of any prolonged absence. We are always here to help. For Confirmation students please refer to the Confirmation Parent Handbook.

If a child leaves the school without permission, the parents/guardians will be contacted and the police may be notified.

If a child needs to be dismissed early, the parent should write a note to the teacher indicating the time of release. Parent, or parent designee, will pick up and sign the child out at the designated time.

COMMUNICATION: Each registered student will receive a weekly newsletter. Please read all information. Always ask your children if they were given any papers that you need to read. From time to time we will also send email reminders or updates. Please make sure your email address is current with the faith formation office.

VOLUNTEERS: All your children's teachers are volunteers. Please keep them in your prayers and treat them as the precious gifts that they are to your Parish. We always need more aides in the classrooms. If you want to help, please call our Faith Formation Office.

VISITORS: We enjoy visitors in the classroom. However, in the interest of safety during possible catastrophes or emergencies, we NEED TO KNOW IN ADVANCE! A "minor" (in age) friend of your son or daughter must bring a parent's note with an emergency phone number. We take responsibility for every student in the program.

BEHAVIOR:

1. Students should enter classrooms only if the volunteer Catechist is in the assigned classroom.
2. Students are expected to model their behavior after Jesus Christ who instituted two Great Commandments: "You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 11:27).
3. No food, drink or chewing gum inside the classroom unless it is an organized event by the catechist or Director of Faith Formation.
4. No electronic devices (IPods, iPads, MP3 Players, video games, etc). Cell phones must be turned off and put away.
5. Behavior or language that intimidates, belittles, harasses (including harassment of a sexual nature) makes inappropriate references or physically harms oneself or others will result in disciplinary action. **We have a Zero Tolerance Bullying Policy.**
6. The Faith Formation program meets in the school classrooms, therefore going inside students desks is inappropriate. Each classroom has its own supply bin.
7. The following are some guidelines for behavior based upon these simple principles:
 - A. *Students properly respect and obey adults in authority.*
 - B. *Students properly respect the personal space and personal property of others.*

Discipline: In the event a student engages in inappropriate behavior any or all of the following may occur:

1. Parental notification of infraction.
2. Meeting between parents and Catechist and Director of Faith Formation.
3. Parent attendance required at subsequent program classes.
4. Temporary removal of student from Religious Education program.
5. Permanent removal of student from Religious Education program.

The Director of Faith Formation is responsible for ensuring that all sanctions against students are implemented in a fair and consistent manner by the faith formation catechists and staff.

ACCIDENTS: If a child is injured, a First Aid certified staff member or teacher will immediately attend to the student, administering first aid as needed and parents will be notified. If the injuries or condition of the student appears to be even remotely serious, 911 will be immediately called and parents will be notified.





Early Childhood Program (Ages 3-5)

Sundays (10:30-11:30am)

Class

Ages 3/4
Age 5

Class Room

TK Room
Day Care Room

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM – ALLELU!:

Developed with particular attention to the brain development and learning styles of preschool and kindergarten children, **Allelu!** is the only Catholic early childhood program that specifically includes child-initiated, multisensory activities in every lesson. Christ-Centered Nurtures young children's natural desire to seek a relationship with God and reinforces a strong sense of community and love.

EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN:

(Age 5 class only): The job of ensuring children's safety is a challenging undertaking. The prevention of child sexual abuse requires we give our children the tools they need to overcome the advances of someone who intends to do them harm. The *Empowering God's Children* program (EGC) is designed to assist parents and teachers in this important task. Our Age 5 Faith Formation students will receive year 3 of this training on: **February 23, 2020 @ 10:30-11:30am in Martin Hall**
The age 3/4 class are not included in this program and will have that Sunday off.

CLASS ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES:

It is very important that your child attends his/her class every week. See page 3 for our policies on leaving without permission or early dismissal.

ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL: Children should arrive no more than 10 minutes before class begins. No child should enter the classroom unless the teacher is present. No students will be allowed in after **10:35am.** Children must be WALKED to their designated classroom in the St. Joseph School Buildings. Parents must sign their child into their classroom. NO DROP-OFFS. **FOR PICK UP PARENTS MUST PARK and sign out their child from the designated classroom NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Every Child is a Gift:

"We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected."

- Pope Francis



September 2019

- 22 First Class & Parent Orientation—Church
29 Class

October 2019

- 06 Class
13 Class
20 Class
27 Class (Family Mass—9am followed by class at 10:30am)

November 2019

- 03 Class
10 NO CLASS (Veteran's Day)
17 Class (Movement for a Better World Collection at class)
24 Class

December 2019

- 01 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)**
08 Class (Movement for a Better World Collection at class)
15 Class (Family Mass—9am followed by class at 10:30am)
22 NO CLASS- (Christmas Holiday)
29 NO CLASS- (New Years Holiday)

January 2020

- 05 Class
12 Class
19 NO CLASS - (MLK Weekend)
26 NO CLASS - (St. Joseph School Open House)

February 2020

- 02 Class (Family Mass—9am followed by class at 10:30am)
09 Class
16 NO CLASS - (Presidents Weekend)
23 Age 3/4 - No Class
Age 5—Empowering God's Children (EGC) - Martin Hall (10:30-11:30am)

March 2020

- 01 Class
08 Class
15 Class
22 Class (Family Mass—9am followed by class at 10:30am)
29 Class (Movement for a Better World Collection at class)

April 2020

- 05 Class
12 NO CLASS - (Easter)
19 Class
26 Class



Elementary Faith Formation Program (Sac Prep Yr. 1)

Sundays (10:30-11:45am)

Class

1a

1b

Class Room

Kindergarten Room

1st Grade Room

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CLASS ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES: It is very important that your child attends his/her class every week. If a child arrives later than 5 minutes after the class start time, he/she will be considered absent.

Students are allowed only FIVE (5) absences during Sacramental Preparation years. If more than 5 classes are missed, the year will not count towards sacramental preparation. Please inform the Faith Formation Office of any prolonged absence. We are always here to help. See page 3 for our policies on leaving without permission or early dismissal.

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God wants to live
amidst his sons
and daughters.
Let us make
space for him in
our hearts.
- Pope Francis



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January 2020

- 05 Class
12 Class
19 NO CLASS - (MLK Weekend)
26 NO CLASS - (St. Joseph School Open House)

February 2020

- 02 Class (Family Mass—9am followed by class at 10:30am)
09 Class
16 NO CLASS - (Presidents Weekend)
23 Empowering God's Children (EGC) - Martin Hall (10:30-11:30am)

March 2020

- 01 Class
08 Class
15 Class
22 Class (Family Mass—9am followed by class at 10:30am)
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April 2020

- 05 Class
12 NO CLASS - (Easter)
19 Class
26 Class



Elementary Faith Formation Program (Sac Prep Yr. 2)

Sundays (10:30-11:45am)

Class

2a Sacrament Prep
2b Sacrament Prep

Class Room

2nd Grade Room
Visual Arts Room

EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN: The job of ensuring children's safety is a challenging undertaking. The prevention of child sexual abuse requires we give our children the tools they need to overcome the advances of someone who intends to do them harm. The *Empowering God's Children* program (EGC) is designed to assist parents and teachers in this important task. Your student will receive year 3 of this training on: **February 23, 2020 @ 10:30-11:30am in Martin Hall.**

PARENT SACRAMENT PREP 2 FORMATION: We will offer two Sacrament Prep 2 Parent Only sessions in Martin Hall from 6-7pm on:

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 - 1st Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 - 1st Holy Communion

SACRAMENT PREP 2 RETREATS: We will offer two Sacrament Prep 2 retreats for parents and candidates in Martin Hall on:

February 9, 2020 – 1st Reconciliation Retreat (1:30-3:30pm)

April 26, 2020 – 1st Communion Retreat (1:30-4:30pm)

SACRAMENTS

1st Reconciliation Service-February 15, 2020 (9am) Church

Holy Communion Weekend:

May 16, 2020 – 5pm Mass

May 17, 2020 – 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am & 12:30pm Masses

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January 2020

05 Class
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26 **NO CLASS - (St. Joseph School Open House)**

February 2020

02 Class (Family Mass—9am followed by class at 10:30am)
09 1st Reconciliation Retreat (1:30-3:30pm) - Martin Hall*
16 **NO CLASS - (Presidents Weekend)**
23 Empowering God's Children (EGC) - Martin Hall (10:30-11:30am)

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April 2020

05 Class
12 **NO CLASS - (Easter)**
19 Class
26 1st Holy Communion Retreat (1:30-4:30pm) -Martin Hall*

* No 10:30am class on Retreat Sundays



Quest Faith Formation Program (Grades 3-5)

Sundays (10:30-11:45am)

Class

Quest 3
Quest 4
Quest 5

Class Room

3rd Grade Room
4th Grade Room
5th Grade Room

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POPE FRANCIS' FIVE FINGER PRAYER

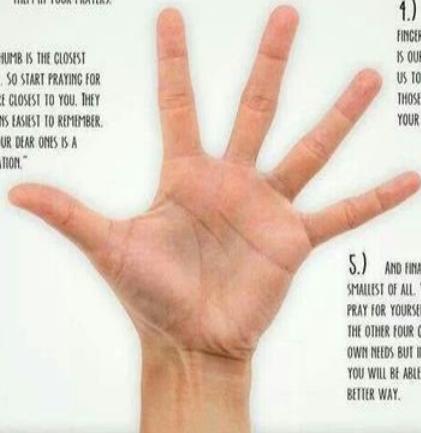
2.) THE NEXT FINGER IS THE INDEX.
PRAY FOR THOSE WHO TEACH YOU,
INSTRUCT YOU AND HEAL YOU. THEY NEED
THE SUPPORT AND WISDOM TO SHOW
DIRECTION TO OTHERS. ALWAYS KEEP
THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS.

1.) THE THUMB IS THE CLOSEST
FINGER TO YOU. SO START PRAYING FOR
THOSE WHO ARE CLOSEST TO YOU. THEY
ARE THE PERSONS EASIEST TO REMEMBER.
TO PRAY FOR OUR DEAR ONES IS A
"SWEET OBLIGATION."

3.) THE FOLLOWING FINGER IS THE
TALLEST. IT REMINDS US OF OUR LEADERS, THE
GOVERNORS AND THOSE WHO HAVE
AUTHORITY. THEY NEED GOD'S GUIDANCE.

4.) THE FOURTH FINGER IS THE RING
FINGER. EVEN THAT IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, IT
IS OUR WEAKEST FINGER. IT SHOULD REMIND
US TO PRAY FOR THE WEAKEST, THE SICK OR
THOSE PLACED BY PROBLEMS. THEY NEED
YOUR PRAYERS.

5.) AND FINALLY WE HAVE OUR SMALLEST FINGER, THE
SMALLEST OF ALL. YOUR PINKIE SHOULD REMIND YOU TO
PRAY FOR YOURSELF. WHEN YOU ARE DONE PRAYING FOR
THE OTHER FOUR GROUPS, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR
OWN NEEDS BUT IN THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE, AND ALSO
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PRAY FOR YOUR OWN NEEDS IN A
BETTER WAY.



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St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation



SAFE GUARD THE CHILDREN

Empowering God's Children

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles is committed to compliance with the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Article 12 of the Charter mandates that, "each diocese establish and maintain a Safe Environment Program for children and youth." In light of this, the - VIRTUS Empowering God's Children (EGC)- was adopted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in September, 2006. This program was implemented beginning January 2007, in parish Religious Education programs.

The children in St. Joseph Parish Faith Formation Programs grades K-12 will participate in these lessons during the 2019-20 program year. Check the program schedule for the date and time of your child(ren)'s training. Parent and guardians have an opportunity to review the program and materials at our Parent Commitment meeting.

All staff members, volunteers, and occasional helpers/chaperones whose duties require direct contact and supervision of young persons shall sign an agreement to follow the Guidelines for Adults Interacting with Young Persons at Parish Activities or Events (hereafter called Guidelines). Staff members, volunteers, and occasional helpers/chaperones may not interact with young persons on behalf of the parish until this agreement is signed.

All staff members and volunteers whose duties require direct contact and supervision of young persons shall complete the VIRTUS training, *Protecting God's Children*, within four (4) months of beginning their ministry. Staff members and volunteers who have not yet completed this training may interact with young persons on behalf of the parish only if a VIRTUS trained adult staff member or volunteer is present. The ratio of untrained to trained staff members/volunteers shall not exceed 2 to 1 in any group setting.



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Office ~ (562) 598-0519 Fax ~ (562) 431-7424

Faith Formation Director: Joe Voigt Ext. 31

Faith Formation Assistant: Michelle Johnson Ext. 32

High School Confirmation & Youth Ministry: Marc Leon Ext. 30

RCIA & Adult Confirmation: Sr. Eva Bryan, R.S.C. (562) 594-4657 Ext. 11

Email: religioused@stjosephlb.org

PRAYER REQUIREMENTS

SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace!
The Lord is with you;
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit
Of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father,
Who art in heaven,
Hallowed by thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
And ever shall be, world without end. Amen

ACT OF CONTRITION

O My God I am very sorry for all my sins
because they displease you,
who are all good and deserving of all my love.
With your help, I will sin no more.

Faith Formation Office Hours

Office will be closed all Parish Holidays

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm
Friday-Saturday: Closed
Sunday: 10:15am-12:30pm
(Teachers Lounge)

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stjosephlbre

Website: www.stjosephlb.org