**A person holding a child and flowers

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**A group of children with person

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A person in a white robe holding a cane

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Sac Prep 1 & 2 & middle school youth group

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023**

**Empowering God’s Children** **Class Session**

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Religious Education Office:**

Mon. - Thurs. (562)598-0519 - 10am – 3pm – **Closed Friday- Saturday**

**Faith Formation Administrator:** [Michelle@stjosephlb.org](mailto:Michelle@stjosephlb.org) Ext 232

**Faith Formation Coordinator-**

**Youth Minister:** [Liz@stjosephlb.org](mailto:Liz@stjosephlb.org) - Ext230

INSTAGRAM: @St.JosephYM

**Director of Faith Formation:** Vacant

**Adult OCIA** – fredandsusan2001@yahoo.com

**INFORMATION FOR SACRAMENT PREP. 2 STUDENTS ONLY**

**Sacrament Prep. 2 Only- Reconciliation Retreat**

**TBD – parents and candidates**

**First Reconciliation Service ~ Sac. Prep. 2 Only**

**Saturday, February 10, 2024- 9:30am – 11:30am**

**First Communion Retreat:** **Sunday, April 21, 2024 ~ 1:30-4:30pm**

**First Holy Communion Weekend-**

**May 18, 2024 ~ 10:00am & 5:00pm**

**May 19, 2024 ~ 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm**

**PRAYER REQUIREMENTS**

**SIGN OF THE CROSS** In the name o

f the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**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 be 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**

I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good. I have sinned against You Whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

**A cartoon of a child and child holding hands

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**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 2023-2024 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.

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A blue and white logo with a cross and sun rays

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**Women & Men’s Retreat!**

**Parents,**

Immerse yourself in a weekend and allow yourself to be transformed.

**Contact: Scan QR code to learn more & register.**

Calling All Families!!!

Join our Family Altar Service Ministry for a meaningful experience. Parents and children, serve together, grow spiritually, and build community.

**Parish Office Hours:**

Monday – Friday (9am – 4pm)

Closed- Saturdays and Sundays

Phone Number: **(562) 594-4657**

**Parish Office Information**

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**October 2023**

**3** First Class & Parent Orientation—PLC

**10** Class

**17** Class

**24** Class

**31** Class— Fun Youth Night

**November 2023**

**7** Class

**14** FUN YOUTH NIGHT

**21** NO CLASS

**28** FUN YOUTH NIGHT

**December 2023**

**5** Class

**12** Class/ FUN YOUTH NIGHT

**19** NO CLASS

**26** NO CLASS

**January 2024**

**2** NO CLASS

**9** CLASS/FUN YOUTH NIGHT

16 CLASS

**23** FUN YOUTH NIGHT

**30** CLASS

**February 2024**

6 CLASS

13 FUN YOUTH NIGHT

20 CLASS

27 FUN YOUTH NIGHT

**MARCH 2024**

5 CLASS

12 FUN YOUTH NIGHT

19 NO CLASS— RE CONGRESS

26 CLASS/ FUN YOUTH NIGHT

**April 2024**

2 Class

9 Class

16 NO CLASS

23 NO CLASS

30 LAST CLASS- FUN DAY

**2023– 2024 ~ Tuesdays 7pm – 8:00pm**

**Youth Nights:**

These nights are times of fun and fellowship and getting to know other youth members better through games, special events etc. Kids enrolled in middle school Faith Formation are invited to bring their friends to join them on these nights. Please see Youth Nights on the scheduled calendar.

**Youth Fun Nights Schedule will be 6:00pm—8:00pm**

**Schedule time applies on select days only, 6-8pm nights are highlighted yellow.**

**Arrival & Dismissal:**

**Parents or guardians must sign their children in & out of class.**

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**Scan the QR code for a digital schedule!**

**Upon opening the digital page, hold the image and select download.**

**Attention Middle School Families!**

We invite our middle school tweens and families to join us for the 12:30pm Mass on the first Sunday of every month. This is a great opportunity to come together, grow in faith and ignite the anticipation for High School faith formation.

See you in Mass!

**FAMILY ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY MASS:** Parents have the responsibility of sharing their faith with their children and to bring them to Mass every Sunday 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, and a requirement of our faith formation program.

**SESSION ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES:** It is especially important that your child attends sessions every week. Sacrament Prep Students are allowed only FIVE (5) absences. If more than 5 sessions 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!** If a child leaves the Parish campus 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** sign the child out in person. Parent, or parent designee, will pick up and sign the child out at the designated time. **CONSECUTIVE ABSENCES ARE NOT PERMITTED!** If a student is absent 5 times consecutively, he or she may be considered dropped from the program, unless a parent has contacted the faith formation office and has been approved for a cleared absence.

**COMMUNICATION:** **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 catastrophes or emergencies, we NEED TO KNOW IN ADVANCE! A “minor” (in age) friend of your child 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 youth minister.

4. **NO AIRPODS, EARPHONES, HEADPHONES! Cell phones must be on silent mode or vibrate mode during class and Mass.**

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 Bulling 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 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.

**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.