

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
PARENT HANDBOOK**

2024 - 2025

6-8 GRADE



(562)598-0519 Ext 230



PRAYER REQUIREMENTS

SIGN OF THE CROSS In the name of 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.

Empowering God’s Children Class Session
Sunday, January 26, 2025, via Zoom.
INFORMATION FOR SACRAMENT PREP. 2 STUDENTS ONLY
<p>Sacrament Prep. 2 Only- Reconciliation Retreat Monday, January 27 – 7pm – 8:00pm First Reconciliation Service ~ Sac. Prep. 2 Only Saturday, February 8, 2024- 9:00am – 11:30am</p> <p>First Communion Retreat: Sunday, March 30, 2025 ~ 2:00pm-3:30pm (Hall)</p> <p>First Holy Communion Weekend- May 17, 2025 ~ TIME: TBD May 18, 2025 ~ 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm</p>
IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION
<p><u>Religious Education Office:</u> Mon. - Thurs. (562)598-0519 - 10am – 3pm – <u>Closed Friday- Sunday</u></p> <p>Faith Formation Administrator: Michelle@stjosephlb.org Ext 232</p> <p>Confirmation Coordinator/Youth Minister: Liz@stjosephlb.org Ext 230</p> <p>INSTAGRAM: @St.JosephYM</p> <p>Director of Faith Formation: Marc Leon Email: Marc@stjosephlb.org Ext 231</p> <p>Adult OCIA & Children OCIC – SrEva@stjosephlb.org (5624)594-4657 Ext 214</p>



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 2024-2025 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.




Women & Men's Retreat!

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

Contact: Scan QR code to learn more & register.

Parish Office Information

Parish Office Hours:
Monday – Friday (9am – 4pm)
Closed- Saturdays and Sundays
Phone Number: **(562) 594-4657**

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





October 2024

6 First CLASS– FUNDAY!

13 CLASS

20 CLASS

30 Wednesday Trunk -Or-Treat 6-8pm

27 CHRIST THE KING (ACTIVITY DAY)

November 2024

3 FUNDAY – Dia de Los Muertos celebration

10 FUNDAY

13 XLT NIGHT– Mandatory 7pm – 8:30pm

17 NO CLASS

18 PARENT FORMATION 7PM – 8PM

24 NO CLASS - Thanksgiving

December 2024

1 NO CLASS

8 CLASS Immaculate Conception

15 CLASS – Las Posadas 10am – 10:45am

22 NO CLASS

29 NO CLASS

January 2025

5 NO CLASS

12 CLASS

19 MLK NO CLASS

**26 EMPOWERING God’s Children
Zoom Meeting - AT HOME**

February 2025

2 FUNDAY CANDLEMAS EVENT

(Must attend 8:30AM – 10:45AM)

9 CLASS Valentine Activity

16 NO CLASS

23 NO CLASS

MARCH 2025

2 Funday CLASS

**5 Drive – Thru Ash
Wednesday Service @7PM**

9 CLASS

16 NO CLASS

23 CLASS

30 NO CLASS

April 2025

6 Class FUNDAY

**13 Class Palm Sunday
(Must Attend 8:30 Mass)**

20 NO CLASS EASTER

27 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

May 2025

4 Last Day Party

Sunday Funday’s:

The program will offer Sunday Funday’s once a month. Tweens will share fellowship with friends through community events.

Kids enrolled in Middle School Faith Formation are invited to bring their friends to join them on Sunday Funday’s. Please see Sunday Funday’s on the scheduled calendar.

**Middle School Sunday School
Schedule will be at 9:45am –
10:45am**

**Schedule time applies on select days
only.**

**SUNDAY FUNDAYS are highlighted
yellow.**

Arrival & Dismissal:

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



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 scheduled sessions. 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 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 AIRPODS, EARPHONES, HEADPHONES! Cell phones must be on silent mode or vibrate mode during class and Mass.**
4. 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.
5. The Faith Formation program meets in the school classrooms, therefore going inside students' desks is inappropriate. Each classroom has its own supply bin.

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 assigned 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.