

Please read booklet,
sign on page 9
(acknowledging your
compliance) and submit to
the Formation Office.



Generations of Faith Faith Formation Policy Booklet

Religious Formation Curriculum

Parental Commitment

*The general concept of our Generations of Faith program (as in any religious education program) is to aid and encourage parents as the primary teachers in faith formation. Full parental responsibility in this spiritual growth includes inspiring the undertaking and applauding the completion of textbook homework and session assignments, praying with the children, and thorough attendance **with them** at Weekend Mass, GOF Sessions and Sacramental Preparation Sessions (as they apply). It is assumed that parents would prioritize this commitment as well as they would any other academic or extra-curricular obligation.*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

The fecundity of conjugal love cannot be reduced solely to the procreation of children, but must extend to their moral education and their spiritual formation. "The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable. #2221

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 11:18,19

Textbooks/Assignments

*The Gary Diocese approves and encourages the usage of the assigned textbooks/workbooks in our Faith Formation Program. Children are expected to complete the appropriated assignments each month and submit them the following month. These assignments, in addition to committed attendance are **two integral parts** of our monthly lesson. Parents are encouraged to work **with** their children through all assignments.*

Failure to complete each grade level requirement may result in an "incomplete" status for that grade level and may also delay, (until completion of said requirements), any Sacrament Celebration.

Prayers

*The Gary Diocese provides us with a list of grade-level specific prayers that are given to each child at the beginning of the Faith Formation year. Parents are encouraged to help at home not only with the memorization but more importantly with the understanding of the content and purpose of the prayers. **Practice makes permanent!***

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

The catechesis of children, young people, and adults aims at teaching them to meditate on the Word of God in personal prayer, practicing it in liturgical prayer, and internalizing it at all times in order to bear fruit in a new life. Catechesis is also a time for the discernment and education of popular piety. The memorization of basic prayers offers an essential support to the life of prayer, but it is important to help learners savor their meaning. #2688

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.

Ephesians 6:18

Mass Attendance

Mass attendance is a crucial part of the ongoing Faith Formation of each and every individual. It is where everything that we learn about in Generations of Faith comes into play and is necessary in fostering spiritual growth. Your family's attendance at weekly mass is required. Each Generations of Faith Session this year will begin with a MANDATORY mass at noon as well.

Saturday-4PM

Sunday-8AM & 10 AM

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day. #2280

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4,5

Generations of Faith Attendance

We have nine months (September through May) of instruction during the formation year. We offer instruction twice per month and as a family, you are expected to choose either the first or second set of sessions, therefore attending 9 sessions per year. Children of all ages must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



Sacramental Preparation

*We need a copy of each child's baptismal certificate on file. We need a Certificate of Transfer from your prior parish if applicable. **100% participation** in all sacramental workshops in addition to Generations of Faith Sessions is required.*

Reconciliation

- Minimum of one year of formation prior to/ in addition to Sacrament Year
- 100% attendance at sacrament workshops
- Currently in 2nd grade or older
- Full GOF and Sacrament assignment completion

Eucharist

- Baptismal Certificate on Record
- Sacrament of Reconciliation Completed
- Minimum of two years of GOF prior to/in addition to Sacrament Year
- 100% attendance at Sacrament Workshops
- Currently in 3rd Grade or older
- Full GOF and Sacrament assignment completion

Confirmation

- Baptismal Certificate on Record
- Reconciliation and Eucharist Completed
- Ongoing Faith Formation after celebrations of Reconciliation and Eucharist (4th through 8th Grade)
- 100% Attendance 8th Grade Sacrament Workshops
- Currently in 8th Grade or older
- Full GOF and Sacrament assignment completion
- 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat
- 10+ Community Service Hours

—The sacrament of Confirmation is a very special milestone on the journey into adult spirituality but it is not a “graduation”.—

—The Confirmed are highly encouraged to study and partake in the boundless opportunities for ministry within Holy Spirit Parish and outside our faith community as well.—

—Confirmed individuals are encouraged to return as volunteers within the Generations of Faith Program.—

—Holy Spirit Parish offers youth groups at both the middle school and high school level.—

—It is our hope and prayer that the youth become involved in the middle school group and move on to the high school group after Confirmation.—



Registration

Admission

*Faith Formation is open to any and all active and **registered members** of Holy Spirit Parish. If you would like to register with our parish, please contact the office @ 661-0644 in order to obtain the proper paperwork. If you would like to attend our Faith Formation program while remaining a registered member of another parish, please submit a Letter of Release from your current parish pastor.*

Enrollment

*We begin distributing registration forms during the spring of the preceding year of faith formation. It is most beneficial to the Formation Team that you **register by May 1st** as we do all of our planning during the summer months for both Generations of Faith and Sacramental Preparation. We ask that a minimum payment towards tuition be made at that time so that we may place our orders with the publishing companies.*

*We ask that all balances be **paid in full by July 1st** and encourage this by administering a tuition credit if this deadline is met.*

You can register during office hours at Holy Spirit, pick-up a form in our Communication Center after mass, or access our online registration at holy-spiritchurch.org.

We have a lock-box outside the office for your convenience after-hours.

Tuition

GOF Families = \$125.00

*GOF Families (if payment is **completed** by July 1st) = \$100.00*

Sacraments = \$20.00/child/sacrament (or \$50 maximum per family) + GOF tuition

A monthly payment plan is an option.

Scholarships are available for families experiencing financial hardship.

Please contact the Faith Formation Office.

Stewardship

Holy Spirit Parish thrives on stewardship. As Christ's disciples, we do all we can for each other with the time, talent and treasure that we each possess. Therefore it is expected that each family would sign up to serve during a Generations of Faith Session in some possible way.

Examples of service (time) may involve facilitating during a session, helping with food preparation or service, or helping with session preparation during the week.

You already share your treasure with us when you provide your tuition payments. Our combined treasure funds our Generations of Faith and Sacramental programs. Any donated amounts above and beyond the ordinary tuition are directed right back into the formation program.

*Your talents are always welcome. If you have a talent (and **everyone** does...) we can utilize it somewhere! Volunteers are what make the "generational" aspect of our program so unique and beneficial to family spiritual growth.*

We'd love to utilize your creativity with art, music, dance, theater, speech, technology, organization, writing and the like! If you feel the call to contribute, please call US!

Attendance

Calendar

The Core Formation Team does its very best to create the annual calendar around the schedules of all area school systems that feed into Holy Spirit Church. We strive to create opportunities for attendance for all families involved. Dates for monthly sessions throughout the upcoming year are typically available by the end of the current year. Classes are usually held on the 1st and 2nd Sundays and the 2nd Monday of each month.

RSVP Procedures

You must sign up, each month, for the session that your family will be attending. Food, materials and nametags will only be prepared for the families that have responded for that particular session.

The deadline for sign-ups will be the Monday before each Generations of Faith Weekend or until that particular session is full. Please understand that we have to work under a "first-come/first serve" policy and may have to "close" a session prior to the deadline day if it is already full.

Our facility and volunteer base limits us to the number of families that we can serve per session, so please reserve your spot early!

We have three different ways that you can sign up for a session:

- * The Communication Center (across from the rest rooms)
- * Call the office @ 661-0644
- * Email: formation@netnitco.net

PLEASE DO NOT GIVE US A "VERBAL RESPONSE" UNLESS IT IS BY PHONE. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO REMEMBER WHICH FAMILY REPLIED FOR WHICH DATE WHEN WE HAVE SO MANY!

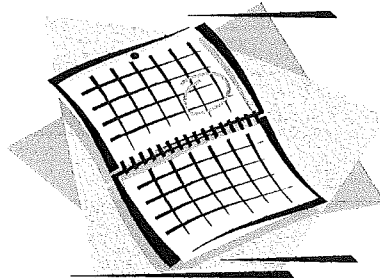
(Please submit *your email address* to us on your registration form.

It is a great tool that we use to communicate with all Formation Families.)

Absence

*Please notify the Formation Office by phone (661-0644) or email (formation@netnitco.net) if you are not able to attend. Generations of Faith only requires attendance **once per month** for 9 months (as opposed to other programs that meet every week; 4-5 times per month) so it is imperative that you schedule accordingly so that your attendance is possible. We value our formation time with your family. **Sporting events and/or practices do not constitute a legitimate reason to miss sessions. Two absences will constitute a meeting with the pastor of the parish in order to discuss commitment to the family's faith formation.***

It is the family's responsibility to pick up homework packets from the Faith Formation office when absent and to submit them during the next session. Missed assignments from the session may also be included.



RCIA Adapted for Children

Children, not baptized as infants but of catechetical age, may seek Christian Initiation at the direction of their parents, guardians, or on their own initiative.

Additional classes are available for these children as well as for children who have been baptized but not formally catechized in the faith and in need of receiving sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. These classes are in addition to the regular Generations of Faith Sessions and do not take their place in catechesis.

Journey with Jesus Supplemental Program

Baptized children first entering formation in the 2nd Grade

- *Attendance at Re-illumination Evening*
- *100% attendance 9 months of Generations of Faith*
- *100% attendance Reconciliation Sacramental Workshops*
- *Spring Reconciliation celebration*

Baptized children first entering formation in the 3rd Grade

- *Attendance at Re-illumination Evening*
- *100% attendance 9 months of Generations of Faith*
- *100% attendance Reconciliation Sacramental Workshops*
- *Spring Reconciliation celebration*
- *Student will prepare for/celebrate First Eucharist in the 4th Grade*

Baptized children first entering formation in the 4th through 7th Grades

- *Attendance at Re-illumination Evening*
- *100% attendance 9 months of Generations of Faith*
- *Attendance at Spring Journey with Jesus sessions*
- *Summer Reconciliation celebration*
- *Continued 100% attendance 9 months Generations of Faith in following year*
- *Attendance at additional Fall/Spring Journey with Jesus sessions in following year*
- *First Eucharist celebration after (Fall/Spring) preparation is complete*
- *Children now in the 8th Grade will simultaneously prepare for Sacrament of Confirmation*

Baptized children re-entering formation (after several years absence) in the 8th Grade

- *Children, along with their families will meet with Pastor to determine needs and readiness in the preparation of the sacrament of Confirmation*
- *Attendance at Re-illumination Evening*
- *100% attendance 9 months of Generations of Faith*

Virtus Training

*The Gary Diocese has mandated that any individual that works with the children in any parish must attend a Virtus Training and register online with Virtus as part of the ongoing program of **Protecting God's Children**.*

Trainings are held several times throughout the year and are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Please contact us if you would like to participate.

Administration

Bishop

The Bishop of the Diocese of Gary is, by nature of his consecration, the primary teacher of the diocese. He beyond all others is the one "primarily responsible for catechesis, the catechists par excellence. Together with the Pope, in the spirit of Episcopal collegiality."

Most Reverend Dale J. Melczek

Gary Diocese Director of Religious Education

Frank Zolvinski

Holy Spirit Pastor and Pastoral Associate

Father Thomas Mischler and Karen McMahon

Holy Spirit Faith Formation Team

Della VanderPol-Director of Faith Formation

LB Angel-Assistant Director Faith Formation

Barb Harris-Sacramental Coordinator

Rochelle McNamara-Assistant Faith Formation

FORMATION is our goal.

We hope to help our families become informed, active, participating parishioners who are forming and supporting each other in love, worship and service as Jesus did.

We, the _____ family
have read this booklet regarding the
Holy Spirit Church
Faith Formation Policies.

*We understand our responsibilities re-
garding the commitment to our family's
faith formation and agree to abide by
these policies as they are stated.*

X _____

Printed Name: _____

**On behalf of our family, signed this
date:** _____

