



Dear First Holy Communion/Continuing Faith Formation Families,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 session of St. Cecilia Children's Faith Formation! Our sacramental preparation is a two-year process focused on helping our children to know their faith and preparing them to properly receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Students in the Continuing Faith Formation program will receive liturgical catechesis to help them discover the richness of the Old and New Testament scriptures to nourish and grow their faith.

Classes will be held on Sundays from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Please drop your child off directly to their classroom prior to 9:00 AM, as we will start at 9:00 AM SHARP!! You can drop-off as early as 8:45 AM.

Classes will be held in the school. We are guests of the facility and should treat the classrooms and all personal items in the desks with respect. No eating or drinking will be allowed. Students should not touch or remove any items in the classrooms or desks. Parents will be responsible to pay for any damage caused to the classrooms.

At the conclusion of each session at 10:00 AM, you must pick up your child at their classrooms. At this time, you will inform the catechist that you are picking up your child. No children will be released unless a parent, or designated caregiver, picks them up in person at the classroom. Children will not be allowed to meet their parent in the parking lot. If you need to pick up your child early, please advise the catechist prior to the start of class so that arrangements can be made. Please be on-time to pick up your child at 10:00 AM. Our Catechists are volunteers that are dedicated to passing on the faith and instilling the love of Jesus and his Church in the hearts of children. They are not babysitters. Please respect their time and pick up your children at 10:00 AM sharp!

Consistency is important. As practicing Catholics, we are obligated to attend Mass every Sunday. Please instill this habit in your children by ensuring that they consistently attend class every week. Two unexcused absences (e.g. no-show/no-call) will be allowed. If a student has more than two unexcused absences, then they will need to repeat the year prior to receiving the sacraments. If your child is sick or you have another activity planned that cannot be missed, you will need to teach your child that week's lesson at home. Arrangements should be made with your student's catechist. Any time your child is absent from school, you must call/email us so we can record absences in a timely manner and know not



to be worried!! Parents, we need volunteers for our phone committee to follow-up with absent students.

We will be covering with all students the Diocese of Orange's Circle of Grace Safe Environment training program. Among the objectives that are covered, children and young people will be able to identify and maintain appropriate physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual boundaries. Children and young people will also be able to identify types of boundary violations.

If your student has special needs such as ADHD or Autism, parents, we may ask you to be present in the classroom along with your child during class sessions. If your presence is required in the classroom, you will need to be fingerprinted and undergo Safe Environment training.

Children will be required to memorize basic Catholic prayers prior to receiving the sacraments. Parents, it is your responsibility to teach these prayers to your children and help your child memorize them. Our class time will be used to teach the basics of the faith and enhance understanding of the sacraments. Class time is limited and we will not have enough time to help your child memorize their prayers, as this should be taught at home. If you do not already, you should incorporate prayers into your daily routine, such as at mealtimes or at bedtime, to help your child learn the prayers.

Cellular phones or other electronic devices are not allowed in the classroom. Please be sure to take away any phones, tablets, electronic toys, etc. from your child prior to class. If your child brings an electronic device to class, the catechist, at their discretion, may confiscate the device during class time.

Year 2 students will be required to attend two half-day retreats to provide practical instruction on how to make a good confession and properly receive the Eucharist. We will need parent volunteers to make these retreat a success. More information, including the date of the retreats, will be forthcoming.

The First Holy Communion Mass is scheduled to be held May 4, 2019. The Church will arrange for a professional photographer to take individual portraits and pictures during Mass, which will be available for purchase. In order to help you in your planning, attire for the Mass should be modest. There are no Sponsors/Godparents/Padrinos for First Holy Communion Mass. More information will be forthcoming.

Thank you for being a part of the success of our Children's Faith Formation program here at St. Cecilia.