

# FAITH FORMATION 2025-26

February 7,  
2026

Issue #10

Latest news and bulletin updates

## Sacramental Preparation:

### First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion

What a blessing you are to us! **The First Holy Communion Retreat** is scheduled for Sunday, April 12, 2026 from 9:45-2:00, lunch provided. Parents attend with candidate. We will have prayer, activity and rehearsal for First Holy Communion.

Have you turned in your child's Baptismal Certificate? Please send us a copy to [faithformation@st-joseph.cc](mailto:faithformation@st-joseph.cc) today.

Please see [website](#) for important dates and info.

### Confirmation

**The Spring Confirmation Retreat** is scheduled for March 8, 2026 beginning at 9:45 am, followed by Mass at 11, and then prayer and activities until 3 pm, lunch provided. Parents/sponsors attend with candidate.

Have you turned in your Baptismal Certificate?

Have you turned in your sponsor information?

Have you researched your patron saint?

Have you written your letter to Bishop Parkes?

Are you attending Mass regularly and discerning God's plan for you?

The next opportunities for Volunteer Hours are: The **Family Stations of the Cross** and the **Lenten Penance Service**- see email to volunteer.

Please see [website](#) for important dates and info!

### Christian Initiation for Children

Please see **both** the First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion and Confirmation sections above.

Lent is a very busy time for you!

Please see [website](#) for important dates!

### Faith Formation for Parents

Please join us for coffee and donuts while the children are in class. This week *The Mass*.

**Don't Forget to Mark you calendar for Stations of the Cross and the Lenten Penance Service!**

### "How To Prepare for Lent"

Preparing kids for Lent means helping them focus on three main things: praying, giving something up or 'fasting', and helping others or almsgiving. You can make a countdown calendar for the days of Lent, use a "sacrifice jar" where kids add notes about good deeds, read stories about saints, go to Ash Wednesday Mass, and try taking a break from loud or distracting things like screens.

- **Explain "Why":** Focus on the joy of Easter, explaining that Lent prepares our hearts to celebrate Jesus's resurrection.
- **Lead by Example:** Parents can actively participate in prayer and fasting with children.
- **Prepare Meals:** Plan simple, meatless meals for Fridays in advance.

## Rite of Election from March 2025



The Rite of Election for children is an important step in the Catholic Church for kids who haven't been baptized yet and are old enough to learn about the faith (usually age 7 or older). These kids are getting ready to receive three big sacraments at the Easter Vigil: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.

## This Month in Faith Formation

### Current News:

This month we will begin a new tour, the **Tour of Service**, for grades 3rd through 8th. We will visit the church and learn how they can serve as part of the Mass.

We will visit:

**Altar servers** in the Catholic Church are young assistants who help the priest and deacon during Mass, allowing the congregation to focus on worship. **Greeters** focus on being a friendly face for Jesus by smiling, welcoming people at the door 15-20 minutes before Mass, and offering help. **The Altar Linen Society** to encourage a junior altar society of girls with their mothers who help in this special effort. **Ushers** are the Gatekeepers of Grace creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere at church. **Gift bearers** bringing up the gifts to show how everyone in the church is part of the celebration. And finally, **Readers** to foster a "sweet and living affection for the Sacred Scripture."

### Favorite Quote This Month

"Why can't I just go to heaven now?"

### Favorite Prayer This Month

"Lord Jesus, strengthen [Name] in their journey to know You. Remove any doubts, deepen their faith, and fill them with the courage to follow You completely. May your Holy Spirit guide their steps and bring them safely to the Easter sacraments. Amen"

This prayer is being put on a prayer card for each of the 2026 First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Christian Initiation catechumens/candidates. We are looking for families to pray for each of them. If you are interested, please email us at [faithformation@st-joseph.cc](mailto:faithformation@st-joseph.cc).

### A Look Ahead At Tours:

2/15/26 Tour of Service - 3rd-8th

**Next up: ROSARY PROJECT Tour**

### Upcoming:

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th! We are looking for Confirmandi volunteers to serve at our **Parish Lenten Penance Service, March 12th at 7 pm**. We need greeters, readers, and ushers - see email to volunteer. All Confirmands should plan to attend.

### Faith Formation Living Rosary Project

Just in time for Mother's Day - a Living Rosary presented by your children. Each of the classes will recite a decade of the rosary in the church as part of the Faith Formation Rosary Project. If you would like to help us make this happen, please contact us at [faithformation@st-joseph.cc](mailto:faithformation@st-joseph.cc).

### Faith Formation Book Club

Don't forget to exchange your borrowed book, read it and then let us know if we should buy more to share with your friends in Faith Formation!

### A 2-Month Look Ahead At Family Events (save the dates):

2/27/26 Stations of the Cross (FE)

3/12/26 Penance Service (FE)

3/29/2026 Palm Sunday Celebration (FE)

40  
days  
of  
Lent

#### Grades Pre-K – 5

Meet at SJCS from 9:45-10:45 am

#### Grades 6-8

Meet at SH from 9:45-10:45 am

#### Communion prep (FHC)

Meet at SJCS from 9:45-10:45 am

#### Confirmation prep

Meet at Knights Hall at 9:45

**Parents** - Meet in SJCS cafeteria

#### Tour Schedule This Month in Church

**2/15/2026 Grades 3-8**

**Tour of Service**

**Sign in at SJCS**

