

Dear St. James Families,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I would like to give an update concerning the St. James Faith Formation Program.

Please know that we have been working closely with the school district in our desire to resume in-person religious education. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Superintendent Chris Difulvio, and Director of Curriculum, Ben New, for their assistance in this quest. We value the close relationship we have with the Cazenovia School District and appreciate all of the administrators, teachers, and staff.

There were many factors to contend with when deciding how to execute in-person faith formation classes this year. One was to observe the recommendations of health professionals in regards to masks and social distancing. The other was NYS guidance's **requirement** of a daily minimum of instructional minutes. As there is no longer an activity period built into the school schedule, continuing with release time would mean students would miss out on instructional time. We felt reducing academic learning for our students was not the best option going forward, so we have reworked the schedule for religious education. We know this is a big change for everyone, including our staff and volunteer teachers. The new schedule ensures students never have to miss out on their academics.

Here are the days and times for Faith Formation according to grade level:

**High School Students: Tuesdays, 7:30 AM to 8:15 AM**

Transportation to Faith Formation is student/parent/guardian responsibility.  
On time arrival to school is student's responsibility.

**Elementary Students: Tuesdays, 2:15 PM – 3:00 PM.**

The school district will provide bussing after school from Burton Street to St. James.  
Parent/Guardians must provide transportation home from St. James.  
Pick up time from St. James Church is promptly at 3:00 PM.

**Middle School Students: Wednesdays, 7:30 AM to 8:15 AM**

Transportation to Faith Formation is student/parent/guardian responsibility.  
On time arrival to school is student's responsibility.

**Registration must be completed and returned by Friday, September 10. We need to have an accurate number to prepare classrooms, curriculum, and recruit teachers and volunteers.**

**Classes will begin in mid-October. More information to follow after registration is complete and curriculum has been ordered. Teachers and teaching assistants are needed. Please consider volunteering – we need your help now more than ever. All teachers and volunteers must complete the Diocese's safe environment training.**

# **Important Sacramental Guidelines and Information**

## **First Eucharist**

**Children must be Baptized prior to receiving First Eucharist. Any child Baptized in a church other than St. James must provide a Baptismal Certificate. Children of families who are not registered parishioners of St. James Parish must register as a parishioner.**

**Typically, First Eucharist happens in second grade. A child must attend first and second year of Faith Formation in order to make the Sacrament. Along with Faith Formation classes, children will also take sacramental prep courses during their second year.**

**Sandra Addante is the Coordinator of First Eucharist. You will receive Sacramental Prep Information directly from her. If you have any questions regarding the Sacrament, please email Sandra at [saddan39@aol.com](mailto:saddan39@aol.com) .**

## **Confirmation**

**Please note that students applying for the Sacrament of Confirmation should have regularly attended Faith Formation classes in grades 7, 8, 9 and 10.**

**Children must have received the Sacraments of Baptism and First Eucharist, prior to receiving Confirmation. Any child who was not Baptized or received the Sacrament of First Eucharist at St. James must provide a Baptismal Certificate. Children of families who are not registered parishioners of St. James Parish must register as a parishioner.**

**This year's Confirmation Ceremony will be held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will combine students from grades 10 and 11. Because Faith Formation classes at St. James have decreased in size, we will hold the Sacrament of Confirmation every two years and combine the grades. This will allow us to keep the celebration at St. James Church and keep our students together as one class.**

**The next Confirmation ceremony will take place in the Fall of 2023. It will combine this year's 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Sacramental preparation classes/services will begin in the spring of 2023.**