



SAN JOSE
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FAMILY FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK

2021 – 2022



Saint Joseph the Worker, Patron Saint of Families, Pray for Us!

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SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Pastor: Rev. Remek Blaszkowski

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Rodolfo Godinez

Deacon: Deacon Chris Supple

Director of Evangelization and Religious Education: Diane Foley

Hispanic Ministry: Cristina Perez

Digital Ministry Director: Mike Diaz

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday (Monday – Friday).....8:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Vigil.....4:30 p.m.

**Sunday.....8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. English,
12:30 p.m. Spanish**

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

OFFICE ADDRESS

**San Jose Catholic Church
3619 Toledo Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32217**

Phone: 733-1630, ext 108

Fax: 904-733-4335

Email: dre@sjcatholic.org

PROGRAM POLICIES FOR SAN JOSE FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

We, the family of San Jose Catholic Church, united as one in the Body of Christ, are called to use the gift of our diversity to love and accompany others on their journey to encounter Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, the Word of God, the Sacraments, and the rich teachings & traditions of the Church.

Registration

Please be sure to register as a parishioner or parish family with the parish office before registering your family for Religious Education classes. If you are new to San Jose's Religious Education program and have attended classes at another parish, please attach a letter from your former parish that describes the program, text that was used, number of classes per year and your child's attendance.

Each family needs to complete a registration form (found on the website www.sjcatholic.org) and return to the parish office along with the required fees, which are as follows:

One child - \$75

Two children - \$100

Three or more children - \$125

Sacramental Materials Fee \$25 (First Reconciliation/First Eucharist and Confirmation)

***Two consecutive years of religious education are required for the reception of sacraments in the Diocese of St. Augustine.**

This handbook is intended to offer a general overview of all current/active programs offered by San Jose Catholic Church. It is in no way intended to offer complete or exhaustive information and the pastor of San Jose Parish reserves the right to alter programs/policies/dates etc. as deemed necessary.

For the most up to date information please check our website:

www.sjcatholic.org

Overview:

Working together in a spirit of community and cooperation, Family Faith Formation provides resources, encouragement, and support for the parents in our parish to pass on the Catholic faith to their children. Faith formation is a lifelong journey of encounter with Christ.

Family Faith Formation is an active process that will allow the parents to experience community in the parish, find support among other Catholic parents, and learn, experience, and grow in their own faith along with their children in response to God's presence, grace, and love.

The Family Faith Formation Process at San Jose Catholic Church exists to serve the entire parish community of families who wish to grow in faith and draw deeper into the community life of the Catholic Church. Our goal is to support parents as the primary educators of the faith by encouraging families toward a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and living out this relationship in their daily lives.

Goals of this program:

- To fulfill the Church's mission to evangelize by supporting and encouraging parents in their sacred duty to raise their children in the Catholic faith.
- To support and nurture strong Catholic families who can be witnesses to the world.
- To be more flexible with the demands on family time while providing parents with the knowledge and resources to incorporate all aspects of the faith into their daily family life.

ALL children are required to present their Baptismal Certificates at time of registration.

Mass Attendance:

As Catholics, the celebration of the Sunday Liturgy (Mass) is central to our identity. Gathered as a parish family, we are spiritually fed by hearing God's Word and the reception of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Sunday worship is the gathering of the faithful to pray and give praise to God. We are sent forth each week renewed in our faith and empowered to share the Good News.

All students are expected to attend Sunday Mass weekly to grow in the understanding of our Catholic faith. Weekly Sunday Mass and holy days of obligation are shared family events which take priority over other activities and instill in children the good faith habits that will carry over into their adult lives.

Program Participation:

Parents, as the primary witnesses of the faith to their children, are required to attend monthly meetings which will provide parents with the knowledge and strategies needed to communicate the faith to their children. Surrounded by a supportive community of other parents, our parish families will grow in faith and devotion. Students will receive a monthly assessment to ensure

that they are learning the foundations of our faith. Families will also participate in monthly fun, community-building gatherings to unite our families as a faith community.

Students in the Sacramental Preparation grades (2nd and 8th) are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Absences should only be due to illness or family emergencies. If a student misses a class, make-up work is required. This work will be provided through the student's catechist. Please have the student complete this work within two weeks.

Attendance records for Religious Education are in keeping with diocesan policies and help determine eligibility for the sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

- 2 or more unexcused absences in any given year constitute excessive absenteeism. If excessive absenteeism occurs in the year proceeding a "sacramental year" the child will be considered ineligible for immediate preparation for the sacrament.
- Absences may be excused due to illness, death, or family crisis. In such cases the Religious Education department must be notified to be considered excused.
- Missed work and or assignments must be completed and returned to the catechist.

In the instance of a child having more than one custodial home, please contact the Religious Education Office so that we can better serve your family's needs.

Conduct:

Students are expected to be active and engaged in the faith formation weekly lessons, as well as the Family Faith Formation events. Life as a Christian is a commitment to live by the example of Jesus Christ. This includes accepting responsibility for conduct and actions, along with the commitment to respect others. Considerate behavior is expected at all faith formation classes and events.

Discipline:

The catechist will handle normal discipline problems. If a problem becomes persistent, the student will be sent to the Director of Religious Education. A continuing problem may necessitate a call to the parents. A parent may be requested to attend class with a child in extreme cases and ultimately may be asked that the child discontinue in class participation for a period of time. In such a situation homeschooling is an option. Behavior that will not be tolerated includes, but is not limited to, abusive language, fighting, vandalism, disrespect to the catechist or other students, stealing, and leaving the building during class time.

Dress:

Please ensure that your child is dressed in an appropriate manner. All dress should be modest, reflecting the intrinsic dignity of the human person, and not constitute a distraction to others.

Weather:

If Duval County Schools are closed for severe or inclement weather, classes will not be held. If you judge conditions in your area to be unsafe, please stay home. In all situations, please err on the side of caution and safety.

Emergency Contacts:

If an emergency should arise during a class, you may reach the Religious Education Coordinator at 904-733-1630 ext. 108 or via email dre@sjcatholic.org.

Special Needs:

Please let us know if there are any medical conditions, learning or physical needs which may affect your child's learning experience. Our goal is to provide a positive, affirming atmosphere in which all students can learn and grow in their faith.

Communication:

Communication between parish and family is essential. We will communicate to you through our parish Evangelus system, which allows you the flexibility to receive all communications through your preferred means, either via email or text. You must sign up for the free Evangelus program on our website, www.sjcatholic.org.

We also rely on you to keep us informed of important developments in your family life that affect our ability to serve you.

The safety of your children is very important to us. To ensure the safety of your children we are continuing the following policy and ask that everyone please follow:

- All parents are required to park their cars in a designated parking spot and escort children to and from the classrooms.
- The fire lane is not to be blocked at any time.
- Respect the handicap and reserved parking spaces.
- No children should ever be unsupervised by parent/guardian prior to or after classes.
- Parent(s) should not leave a child in a classroom unattended by a catechist.

Vacation Bible School

Every year, for one week in the summer the parish hosts Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children age 4 through 11. Registration usually begins in the spring of each year. Watch for bulletin announcements and flyers. Adult and youth volunteers are welcome and very helpful!

Diocese of St. Augustine Safe Environment Program



DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Office of the Bishop

October 22, 2015

Diocese of St. Augustine Safe Environment Program

Though the Diocese has had a safe environment program in one form or another in place since 1998, I take this opportunity to re-promulgate and reiterate as official diocesan policy our current safe environment program. This letter supersedes my previous letter of June 3, 2011.

All elements of our diocesan safe environment program have been in place for some time. All of these elements are required by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth*, and the essential norms deriving from the Charter as revised in 2011. The essential norms, having received the *recognitio* of the Holy See, are particular law in the dioceses of the United States. In addition to children and youth, all dioceses in the Province of Miami also apply the protections of the Charter and Norms to vulnerable adults as defined in Florida law.

More specifically, the diocesan safe environment program consists of the following component parts:

– The background check / screening program for clergy, religious, lay employees, educators and covered volunteers. Here I want to emphasize that, when required, background checks and screening must be completed **before** the person assumes his or her position or begins volunteer service; there can be no compromises or exceptions regarding this aspect of our Safe Environment Program.

– The *Protecting God's Children* program designed to educate clergy, religious, employees, educators and volunteers in ways and means to establish and maintain a safe environment for children and youth.

– The *Touching Safety* and *Children & Youth Personal Safety* program alternatives, designed to help children and youth to cooperate in maintaining their own personal safety. It is of vital importance that every child and every youth in our Catholic schools, religious education programs and parish youth programs be given the opportunity to take part in this critical element of our Safe Environment Program. Here again, there can be no compromises or short-cuts taken.

All of the above component parts of our diocesan program are in full compliance with the requirements of the USCCB's Office for the Protection of Children and Youth, and I direct that they continue to be fully implemented in each parish, school and agency of this diocese.

Finally, we will continue to evaluate all of the components of the safe environment program. Whenever changes are called for, or improvements are possible, we will strive to implement them expeditiously.

Thank you for your cooperation in this most important area of concern for our entire diocese.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Felipe J. Estevez, D.D., S.T.D.
Bishop of St. Augustine

Safe Environment Policy:

The Safe Environment Program for the Diocese of St. Augustine has been in place in one form or another since 1998. All elements of our program are required by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, and the essential norms deriving from the Charter. The essential norms, having received the recognition of the Holy See, are particular law in the dioceses of the United States.

In the Diocese of St. Augustine, the SAFETY education of children and youth is accomplished by way of one of the two following programs:

- Touching Safety Program (VIRTUS organization), or
- Children and Youth Personal Safety Program (adapted from the Diocese of Harrisburg's Formation in Christian Chastity Program).

The Touching Safety Program lesson plans and the Children and Youth Personal Safety Program lesson plans are available on the Diocese of St. Augustine web site at <http://www.dosafl.com>, click on the Safe Environment Programs link at the bottom of the home page.

Either the Touching Safety Program or the Children & Youth Personal Safety Program is a mandatory part of each parish religious education and youth program for children and youth who do not attend Catholic schools. One or the other program is also a required part of the curriculum in all Catholic schools in the diocese. A parish or school may implement either of these programs.

PLEASE NOTE: San Jose Parish uses the children and youth Personal Safety Program

As the Children & Youth Personal Safety Program focuses strictly on personal safety within the context of Catholic moral theology, there is no opt-out provision for this program. It is an integral part of the doctrinal and moral teachings of the faith.

Children & Youth Personal Safety Program

Introduction

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, requires the parish or school to provide formation for the children in the areas of safety and integrity of their person. Our philosophy is to directly involve parents in the formation of their children. Parents will receive materials to help guide their own discussions with their children.

This program accomplishes these goals in two ways:

- (1) Parents will receive materials on teaching children about the issues of safety. They will take the form of two information sheets from a nationally recognized center on child safety, along with additional materials incorporated into the parent's letters.
- (2) Lesson plans are included with this program that teaches children their role in maintaining a safe environment. The lesson plans are arranged for younger children, older elementary students and high school students.

Implementation

During the initial year that this program is implemented in a parish religious education or youth program, or in a Catholic school, all children and young people in every grade levels will receive the classroom instruction (one lesson plan), and all parents will receive the safety information (letters to parents and attachments). In subsequent years, the primary level lesson is directed only to students in 1st and 3rd grades, the intermediate level lesson is directed only to students in 5th and 7th grades, and the high school level lesson is only for students in 9th and 11th grades. Information and letters sent to Parents will also follow this same pattern.

Program Materials

- (1) Information sheets: "Know the Rules" and "Questions and Answers" (in both English and Spanish)
- (2) Primary Grades (1-4): Lesson plan for religious education program or school, and sample Parent letter (to include info sheets as attachments)
- (3) Intermediate Grades (5-8): Lesson plan for religious education program or school, and sample Parent letter (to include info sheets as attachments)
- (4) High School: Lesson plan for religious education program, youth program or school, and sample Parent letter (to include info sheets as attachments)

Record Keeping

Except for keeping a record of the dates on which of these lesson plans are taught, there is no other record keeping involved.

*The information is available from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Copyright permission on their web site (www.missingkids.com) notes that these pages must be duplicated in their entirety and may not be sold. The information is provided as a service to the general public and does not constitute an endorsement of the diocesan program.

Making the Safe Environment Happen:

The final part of the diocesan effort involves concrete actions to prevent unsafe conditions from ever arising, and to spot potential existing unsafe circumstances before any harm can be done.

This part of the diocesan program involves:

- The screening of priests, religious, lay employees and certain volunteers by way of fingerprinting and background checking.
- Coordinating and facilitating the Protecting God's Children classes
- Establishing record-keeping requirements to ensure that these programs are, in fact, being carried out
- Monitoring these record-keeping requirements on the diocesan level
- Attempting to describe what a safe environment for children and young people should look like in real life by establishing standards of ethical conduct.

The Personal Screening Policy of the Diocese of St. Augustine; Diocesan policy states that "All Church Personnel shall allow an inquiry into their background to assess whether any reason exists that would suggest the person is not suitable for the position sought. Such background investigation may include but shall not be limited to a fingerprint screening through state or national law enforcement and documented reference checks of at least three (3) individuals who are not family members."

Specific Requirements:

With this in mind, and desiring to err on the side of safety, the following specific requirements regarding certain covered volunteers are in place:

- All volunteer catechists in a parish religious education program must be fingerprinted, background checked, and attend a Protecting God's Children class.
- Chaperones, by definition, are entrusted with at least a small level of care or supervision as they carry out an oversight function. Accordingly, anyone who volunteers to serve as a chaperone for minors for even one parish or school trip, event or function must be fingerprinted, background checked and attend a Protecting God's Children class.
- Any volunteer who will be assisting a teacher in a classroom setting for more than a total of 2 hours in any 12-month period, must be fingerprinted, background checked and attend a Protecting God's Children class. This applies to any classroom setting, including parish religious education classes. A volunteer who reaches the 2-hour limit and who has not accomplished these requirements must not be permitted to continue until the requirements have been accomplished.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Unbaptized Infants and Children- to age 7

Parent Baptismal Preparation Session	Parents participate in a preparation session prior to the Baptism.
Baptisms scheduled in advance	Baptisms are held on Saturdays.

Baptized Catholics- Age 5-14

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist	2 nd Grade Current and Previous Year in Catholic Religious Education, Catholic or Home School, and current year in Sacramental preparation classes
Confirmation	8 th Grade Previous Year in Catholic Religious Education, Catholic or Homeschool and current year in Sacramental preparation

Baptized Catholics/Other- Age 14-17

First Reconciliation First Eucharist/Confirmation	2 years of RCIA for Youth Reception at Easter Vigil
Confirmation Only	2 years of RCIA for Youth Reception at Easter Vigil

Adults who desire the Sacraments

Not Baptized	1 year of RCIA Reception at Easter Vigil
Baptized	1 year of RCIA Reception at Easter Vigil

Catholics, only in need of Confirmation 18+ years old

Adult Confirmation Program	The Bishop reserves the right to confirm all adults who were baptized as infants and have received their First Eucharist. Reception is available on two occasions/locations in the diocese, as announced by the diocese annually.
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***Pastoral discretion may be warranted in particular situations. *No child will be “officially” registered for preparation to receive a sacrament unless the registering package is complete PRIOR to THE START OF THE PROGRAM.**

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism, as the first of the sacraments of initiation, “is the basis of the whole Christian life; the gateway to the life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments” (C.C.C. #1213). Through Baptism a person is freed from sin and begins a faith relationship with the Triune God, being reborn as a child of God. One becomes a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, so that he or she can participate in the mission of Christ and the Church to spread the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Parents seeking baptism for infants and their children up until the age of seven should be registered members of the parish and are encouraged to begin preparation for this sacrament during pregnancy. Parents are asked to call the parish office to make their desire for their child’s Baptism known. Please do not make any definite arrangements for a date prior to this call.

Preparation and Formation for the Sacrament:

In order to have your child baptized, the infant must be unbaptized and we must have the consent of at least one of the parents/legal guardians. “Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptized within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth, even indeed before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their child, and to be themselves duly prepared for it” (Canon 867).

In preparation for this initial sacrament for their child, parents are required to attend a Baptismal Preparation Program. Please call the parish office to register for this session.

Choosing Baptismal Sponsors/Godparents:

A sponsor assists an adult to be baptized or assists the parents in presenting an infant for baptism. The sponsor assists the newly baptized in living the Christian life. If two sponsors are chosen, they are to be of different sexes. (Canons 872-874).

The qualifications for serving as a sponsor are:

- Designated by the parents, not a parent of the one to be baptized.
- 16 years of age or older
- A Catholic, confirmed and who has received the Eucharist, leading a life in conformity with the faith and the role assumed as a sponsor
- Not bound by any canonical penalty

A baptized person who is not Catholic may serve as a witness to the baptism with a Catholic as sponsor. The primary role of the godparent is to witness to the faith of God alive in their hearts and be willing to share that faith in a supportive way with their godchild as well as to support the faith-life of the parents. Godparents represent “both the local Church community and the whole society of saints and believers” in welcoming this newest member of the Body of Christ.

To schedule a Baptism at San Jose:

- Must be a registered parishioner of San Jose
- Call the parish office (904-733-1630) to register for the Baptismal Class
- After the above is completed you can contact the above number to schedule the Baptism of your child

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation and Eucharist (FRFE)

Preparation and Formation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Formation for the celebration of First Reconciliation involves the cooperative efforts of parents, pastors, catechists, and children. It is a time for a person to encounter a loving and merciful God. Every child who has reached the age of reason must be given adequate catechesis for the celebration of **reconciliation**. The decision concerning readiness of a particular child rests with the parent and child along with the assistance of the parish pastor and catechetical leadership.

Readiness of the individual child includes:

- The ability of the child to distinguish between right and wrong
- The awareness of the need for forgiveness and trust in Christ Jesus' forgiving love
- The ability to express sorrow
- The ability to describe wrongdoing in his or her own words
- The ability to ask for forgiveness

Preparation and Formation for the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist:

Formation for the celebration of First Holy Eucharist involves the cooperative efforts of parents (the primary educators), pastors, catechists and children. It is a time for a person to intimately encounter the whole Christ: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Immediate catechesis for the sacrament of Holy Eucharist is to be focused on the preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament. The goal of this catechesis is to help children participate in the Mass in a meaningful and reverent manner. The content of the preparation is to have at its core adequate preparation for the reception of the Sacrament, which includes sufficient knowledge and appropriate disposition.

To enroll in the First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Program (FR/FE) at San Jose, all the following must be turned in to the parish office:

- Completed Registration Form
- Baptismal Certificate
- Program material fees (covers books, materials, and retreat)

Program Requirements:

- Attends Weekly Mass
- Has completed one year of religious education classes and enrolled in current year of FR/FE program or is enrolled in a Catholic School or Home school for the previous year.
- Attends all the classes in both sessions of FR/FE.
- Parent(s) attend each of the two Preparation Classes for FR/FE

Parental Requirement:

- Attendance at the monthly Family Faith Formation sessions
- Attendance at the two parent sessions during the FR/FE retreats

- **The Sacrament of Confirmation**

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation that is closely connected to the Sacrament of Baptism and Eucharist. It completes the Sacrament of Baptism, brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace and strengthens the gifts of the Spirit received at Baptism. The Sacrament of Confirmation also leads us to the Eucharist as the way to live out our lives as fully initiated Catholics.

Preparation and Formation for the Sacrament:

Eighth grade students who have completed seventh grade Religious Education classes, Catholic School Education, or Home Schooling Religious Education are eligible for enrollment in our Confirmation preparation program. In keeping with diocesan policy, sacramental preparation for Confirmation is a two-year process to form the young adults into missionary disciples of Christ.

Formation for the celebration of Confirmation involves the cooperative efforts of parents (the primary educators), pastors, catechists, and young adults. It is a time for a young adult to become a mature, practicing Catholic, characterized by the willingness to personally follow Christ and actively participate in the vital mission of His Church.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Adapted for Children

A full description of the structure of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is contained within the section of this handbook that discusses Adult Faith Formation and Religious Education Programs available in the parish. Although the structure of the program remains the same for children and youth, the content is specifically adapted to the age of the participants in the children and youth programs.

New life in Christ is a gradual journey. The key Rites of Acceptance, Election and Initiation will be celebrated throughout the liturgical year, typically culminating in the children and youth being fully received into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass (after their 2-year process).

Policies for those in the RCIA adapted for Children and Youth Program:

Required Information and Permissions:

Baptismal Certificates, if applicable, must be submitted before a child/youth is officially registered in the program.

Absences:

- Class attendance is very important for formation, understanding of Mass and the Catholic Faith
- Excessive absences of class without a valid specified reason may require review by the Coordinator.
- If an absence is known in advance, you are requested to contact the Coordinator at earliest convenience.

Scheduled Rites and Retreats:

- Communication with Coordinator if unable to attend a scheduled Rite at Mass is mandatory
- Participation in required Rites of the Program is mandatory, and may delay process if not attended
- Retreat(s) attendance is Mandatory, if not attended may count for more than one absence.

Parents and sponsors are encouraged to attend additional Adult Faith Formation and Adult oriented programs to enhance and encourage growth in their faith.

Cancelled Classes:

In case of cancellation of a scheduled class due to inclement weather, calls and or emails will be made to parents as soon as is known.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process through which interested adults are gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and way of life. It is a communal process and involves a number of stages punctuated by liturgical rites to aid and assist the potential convert toward the final rite, usually at the Easter Vigil at which time they will become full members of the Roman Catholic Church. The entire process usually takes on year, but participants are generally invited to proceed at a pace which suits them individually. The Church prefers to call this the “process” and not a program.

Process:

Period of Inquiry

This is a time of introduction to the gospel of Jesus Christ and of reflection on one’s own life in the light of the values of the reign of God. It is an unstructured time of no fixed duration for questions and an opportunity for the beginnings of Christian faith.

Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

Those who profess their faith in Jesus Christ and sincerely desire to enter the church celebrate with the worshipping assembly the beginning of their journey of faith. They accept the way of Jesus, receive the sign of the cross of Christ and join in the liturgy of the word of God.

Period of Catechumenate

Along with their sponsors for the journey, catechumens celebrate the liturgy of the word each Sunday, receive anointing, participate in prayers of exorcism and blessing and take part in the mission of the church to the world. During these months or years in the catechumenate, catechumens discover the love and power of God in their lives and in the church.

Election or Enrollment of Names

This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent in the Cathedral-Basilica of St. Augustine, in which the bishop formally acknowledges the readiness of the catechumens and calls them to the sacrament of initiation. Catechumens, “the elect”, respond by expressing their desire for these sacraments.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

Usually during the Lenten season preceding the celebration of initiation at the Easter Vigil, this is a time of intense immediate preparation. Centered on the word of God, The Creed, and The Lord’s Prayer, the catechumens, “the elect”, experience death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in their own lives.

Sacraments of Initiation

Catechumens, “the elect”, celebrate initiation in the threefold sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist ordinarily at the Easter Vigil. The waters of baptism put to death the old person of sin and give birth to the new person in Christ. Anointing with sacred chrism seals and strengthens the newly Baptized Christian. Faithful and active participation at the Eucharistic table of the Lord as apostles and witnesses is the goal of Christian initiation and constitutes full members in the church.

Period of Mystagogy

Mystagogy is the five-day Easter time following the celebration of Christian initiation. Newly baptized persons receive the sacramental catechesis and participate fully with the faithful in the Eucharistic life and in the mission of the church for justice and peace. A program of Christian formation and incorporation into the full life of the Christian community assists the newly baptized persons until their anniversary of initiation. This period reminds everyone that growth in faith is ongoing and lifelong.

Adult Confirmation:

We follow the norms for Administration of Adult Confirmation in the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Adult Candidates for Confirmation:

The term “Adult Confirmation” as used in this set of guidelines refers to Roman Catholics who have been baptized, have celebrated their First Communion and are seeking to celebrate their confirmation at an age later than the usual age for confirmation in the Diocese of St. Augustine (ages 13-17). Canon law defines an adult as a person who has completed their eighteenth year of age (Canon 97) and does not lack the use of reason (Canon 99)

Confirmation Celebration:

Annual diocesan celebrations of Confirmation for Adult Candidates will be celebrated twice within a calendar year, one at the Cathedral and one at another parish of the diocese. The dates of these celebrations will be announced at a minimum of six months prior to the actual celebrations. Reminders of these dates and bulletin announcements will be provided through Pastoral Briefings by the office of Christian Formation and the parish.

Process:

The process of preparation is based on the RCIA model as well as the basic tenets of adult faith formation. Preparation sessions may be provided by the Parish and/or the Diocese based on individual need as discussed in consultation with the Coordinator or RCIA and/or the Director of Religious Education.

2021-2022 Parent and Student Acknowledgement Form

Please return this form to Diane Foley, Director of Evangelization and Religious Education, at dre@sjcatholic.org or bring to the parish office.

This is to acknowledge that I/we have received the San Jose Catholic Church and School Family Handbook for Religious Education. I/we have read the handbook and agree to abide by its policies. I/we understand that faith formation is a family-oriented program intended to draw all members of the family together in praise and worship of our loving God.

I understand that my responsibilities as the parent of a child in San Jose's Religious Education program include:

- *Attending the initial parent meeting on Wednesday, September 1st 7:00-8:00pm
 - *Parents will attend each monthly instructional meeting on Wednesdays at 7pm
 - *Monthly family attendance at the Family Faith gatherings
 - *Ensuring that my child(ren) complete the activities associated with each monthly lesson.
- I understand that this program is intended to support my role as the primary catechist of my child(ren).
- *If my child(ren) are eligible to receive a sacrament this year, I understand that attendance at class is mandatory for the formation process to be effective. I will contact the church office if my child(ren) will be absent and will ensure my child makes up any missed work.
 - *Attending the Sunday Liturgy (Mass) every week
 - *Maintain good communication with the catechist and Director of Religious Education, including responding to emails and/or phone calls, and checking the website and parish bulletin for schedule changes or updates.

(Signature of parent/guardian)

Date

(Signature of parent/guardian)

Date

(Signature of student)

Date

(Signature of student)

Date

(Signature of student)

Date