



Elementary Faith Formation Policies

Students enrolled in Elementary Faith Formation at St. Pius X complete weekly lessons, at-home or in-person, from September 13, 2021 through May 6, 2022.

Registration

The registration deadline for the 2021-2022 academic year is **August 6, 2021** for those who wish to participate in weekly, in-person catechesis. This allows us time to properly prepare the school building, train our catechists, and order materials for the year. Registrations received between **August 7, 2021 and September 27, 2021** will automatically be enrolled in at-home instruction. **Registrations will not be processed after September 27, 2021.** In order to maintain proper distancing, all classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Once a class reaches capacity, we will redirect students to their next available choice or remote instruction.

All new registrations must include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and record of any other Sacraments they have received. Non-parishioners wishing to participate in the program must obtain written permission from the pastor at the parish of registration to do so.

Attendance and Classroom Behavior

Enrollment in Sacramental Preparation at St. Pius X is a year-long commitment. Classes begin promptly at 4:30pm each week, and each student is expected to arrive on time and prepared for class. If any extenuating circumstances arise in your family that result in extended periods of absence, please contact the office immediately.

We no longer allow early dismissal from Elementary Faith Formation. If a short-term conflict arises (*e.g., illness, doctor's appointments, or activities lasting <6 weeks*) parents may request that the student complete their lessons at-home for that time. Because of the limited space in the program, we ask that you kindly consider at-home formation if your child is unable to fully commit to the one hour in-class program each week.

Our catechists have volunteered their free time each week to share their faith with your children. Disrespectful and disruptive behavior towards other students, catechists, staff, the Religious Education Center, or learning materials will result in removal from the program. To maintain balanced classes and to alleviate potential behavioral concerns, we DO NOT accept requests for students to be placed with friends. We encourage all children registered to meet other children in the parish who they may not have otherwise been introduced to. **If your child has any specific learning or behavioral special needs, please indicate this on your family's registration so that we can best serve them.**

Parent Expectations & Requirements

It is expected that parents act as an example of the courtesy, respect, responsibility, and Christian attitude expected of their children throughout the year.

Parents of children enrolled in Elementary Faith Formation (*Grades 2-6 only*) attend **at least two (2) Prayer & Information Sessions** as part of the program requirements – one for all parents in September and one session split by curriculum (First Communion, Grades 3-5, or Confirmation). These sessions will meet during class times for the 2021-22 academic year. Parents working with their children remotely may choose to attend any one of the three days available. These dates are highlighted in **gold** on the calendar and a reminder email will be sent one week before each scheduled session.

Pick Up and Drop Off

Please follow all marked and communicated traffic directions and pick up procedures. **Note the one-way traffic flow from the Faith Center Office to the Barn exit, which is marked EXIT ONLY.** Students may be dropped off and picked up outside at the parent or guardian's discretion.

Use of the Fire Lane in front of the Religious Education Center is reserved for those who are NOT leaving their vehicles. If you leave your vehicle, you MUST park your vehicle in the Religious Education Center parking lot.

Communication & Calendar

Our calendar closely follows that of Fairfield Public Schools and can be found on the Elementary Faith Formation home page, <https://www.st-pius.org/elementary-faith-formation/>. Important details regarding your child's formation will be sent via email or text message using **Flocknote**, which is designed for parish use and allows us to communicate with you effectively. We will also post these updates on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SPXElementaryFF, and the St. Pius X website, www.st-pius.org. A cell phone number and at least one email address that your family checks regularly are necessary for effective communication. Our staff is not responsible for any missed communications due to a faulty email address or phone number.

First Communions will be celebrated at Masses on Saturday, May 7 and Saturday, May 14, 2022. Children will be assigned a First Communion Mass no later than December 31, 2021. Dates for the celebration of Confirmation are set by the Office of the Bishop and as such cannot be added to the calendar at this time. Those preparing for Confirmation will be contacted via email when the Confirmation date(s) are available.

During weeks where one or more classes would not meet because of a long weekend, all classes will complete a brief lesson at home instead of attending their regularly scheduled class. These dates (five weeks in total) are highlighted in **grey** on the calendar. If you ever have any questions regarding when classes do not meet, please consult the calendar posted on the Elementary Faith Formation home page.

Safety Procedures & Inclement Weather

Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather: When Fairfield Public Schools close or dismiss early due to inclement weather, we **WILL NOT** have class that day. Class cancellations will be posted on our Facebook page and the parish website, and a brief lesson will be emailed for review.

Food: Absolutely NO food is allowed in any of the classrooms at any time. Children may bring a reusable water bottle if needed.

Medications: We are unable to distribute medications to children. If your child must carry an EpiPen for allergies, please indicate this on your registration to be contacted regarding protocols in place.

Building Safety: The Religious Education Center will be locked during class time. The door will be locked 5 minutes after classes begin and will remain locked until 5 minutes prior to dismissal. During this time, only catechists, volunteers, and staff will be allowed in the Religious Education Center.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Shari Garcia**, Director of Elementary Faith Formation, at sgarcia@st-pius.org (*preferred*) or (203) 259-4800.

Thank you for allowing us to share the teaching of our Catholic faith and the joy and love of Jesus with your children. We are committed to their growth in the knowledge of our Church and our growth together as a parish.