



Elementary Faith Formation Policies

Students enrolled in Elementary Faith Formation at St. Pius X complete weekly lessons in-person on their assigned class day.

Registration

There are two separate registration deadlines for the 2023-2024 academic year. Families wishing to enroll their child in Confirmation Prep Cohort 1 must register by **August 28, 2023**. Families wishing to enroll their child in Grades 1-5 and Confirmation Prep Cohort 2 must register by **September 25, 2023**. These deadlines allow us the necessary time to prepare the school building, train our catechists, and order materials for the year. **Registrations will not be processed after these deadlines.**

All classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Once a class reaches capacity, we will place students in their next available choice or provide a refund to the original method of payment if a family chooses to withdraw.

All new registrations must include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate and record of any other Sacraments they have received. Non-parishioners (anyone not registered with the parish at the time of registration) 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*) parents may request that the student complete their lessons at-home for that time. This request must be submitted in writing to Shari Mellinger in the Faith Formation Office using the form provided.

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 and required 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 attend **four (4) Prayer & Information Sessions** as part of the program requirements. These dates are still TBD but will be highlighted in **gold** on the calendar when they have been selected. 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 **RESTRICTED** for the safety of everyone in the program. Anyone picking up a child in Elementary Faith Formation must park their vehicle in one of the parking spots on campus. It is the responsibility of the parent to share this information with anyone who may pick up their child(ren) throughout the year.

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 11 and Saturday, May 18, 2024. Children will be assigned a First Communion Mass no later than December 31, 2023. 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.

Please note the dates on the calendar highlighted in grey and marked as "Remote Day." On these dates, the classes affected will receive a brief assignment to complete at home in order to keep everyone on track throughout the year. If you ever have any questions regarding when classes do not meet, please consult the calendar posted on the Elementary Faith Formation home page.

Note: Those participating in the Confirmation Preparation program with Edge do not have any Remote Days and are expected to attend all dates throughout their 14-week session, unless otherwise noted as a holiday or school break (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break).

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. Please note that the Religious Education Center does not have public water fountains available and plan accordingly.

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 Mellinger**, 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.