

Grades K-7 “Academy of Virtuous Leaders” Formation Options

Weekly Mass attendance is central to our lives of faith as Catholic Christian men and women. It is at Mass that we gather with our faith community, that we learn about God’s love for us in the Liturgy of the Word, and that we receive Eucharistic nourishment for our journey in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Ensuring weekly Mass attendance is the most important thing we parents can do, as our children’s first and best teachers and their most powerful role models.

To supplement your efforts toward the spiritual and religious formation of your children, St. Jude offers the following Faith Formation options for grades K-7 for this school year.

1. **“Classroom Formation” is the traditional format, available for grades K-7.** Classes are held after 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday mornings from 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 - **Grades K-3:** In addition to the “Faith and Life” series from Ignatius Press, we are fortunate to be able to provide the highly acclaimed “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” learning system, which offers hands-on experience appropriate for the education of young children. In our diocese, Grade 2 is the customary year children receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time.
 - **Grades 4, 5 and 6:** The “Faith and Life” program from Ignatius Press is presented in these grades.
 - **Grade 7:** “Encounter”, “Symbolon”, and “Altaration” materials from Ascension Press and The Augustine Institute are presented to cultivate the interest of these older students.

2. **“Distance Formation” is a continuing *pilot* program, available for grades 4-7 ONLY.** Instead of the classroom format, you may choose an **online** learning system for your child. Weekly lessons are completed at home. ***Parent participation is recommended***, and **periodic FAMILY GATHERINGS** are scheduled to provide community faith development experiences for your family. ***Please see the Family Gathering schedule on the parish website.*** The online option is a learning platform called “MyCatholicFaithDelivered”, a partner of Ignatius Press.

Please note that the “Classroom” and “Distance” options are “stand-alone” programs. Due to varying curriculum patterns it is not possible to use the “Distance Formation” program to make up for missed classes in the “Classroom Formation” option.

Specific cases of special need will be handled on an individual basis and referred to the Pastor for his prayerful decision.