



## **PARENTS AND PARISH COMMUNITY: A PARTNERSHIP OF FAITH AND GRACE**

The day of your child's Baptism, the deacon or priest reminded you of the great responsibility and privilege entrusted to you by God as the primary educator of your child in the faith. Our parish family rejoiced with you on that special day, and we continue to rejoice with you as you guide your child in the ways of faith, hope, and love.

The parish community seeks to support you in your role as the primary teacher of your child's faith and moral formation. As parents, you are the ones who "create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and neighbor in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered" (Second Vatican Council, *Gravissimum Educationis*). The parish, as the Eucharistic community and the center of the Church's sacramental life, is the privileged place for the catechesis and faith formation of both children and parents.

Together, as partners in faith formation, we seek to awaken in our children a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and a sense of belonging to the Catholic Church. Our hope is that they will grow into faithful disciples who generously share their time, talent, and treasure in service to God and others. The goal of catechesis and faith formation is to foster a lifelong relationship with God through prayer, participation in the sacraments, Christian service, and an ever-deepening understanding of the Catholic faith.

Committed to this partnership among clergy, parish staff, catechists, and families, we entrust our efforts to God's grace and guidance.

## **PARISH FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE**

Beginning in the 2026–2027 Faith Formation year, St. John Vianney Parish will transition to a Grade 7–8 Confirmation preparation program.

**Grade 1:** Children participate in a home program one on one with their parents.

**Grade 2:** Students meet in small groups on Sunday mornings, 8:30am to 9:35am.

**Grade 3:** Students meet in small groups on Sunday mornings, 9:45am to 10:50am.

**Grade 4:** Students meet in small groups on Tuesday afternoons, 5:00pm to 6:05 pm.

**Grade 5:** Students meet in small groups on Monday afternoons, 5:00pm to 6:05pm.

**Grade 6:** Students meet on Monday evenings, 6:15pm to 7:20pm in the church hall in alternating weeks.

**Grade 7 & 8:** Students meet on Sunday evenings, 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the church hall in alternating weeks.

## **PARISH FAITH FORMATION CURRICULUM**

### **First Reconciliation:**

Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is conducted separately from preparation for First Eucharist, as each sacrament deserves its own focused and meaningful preparation. The Church teaches that children should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving their First Holy Communion.

At St. John Vianney Parish, immediate preparation for First Reconciliation takes place during 2nd Grade. Through classroom instruction, prayer, and family involvement, children are introduced to God's mercy, forgiveness, and love as they prepare to celebrate this sacrament.

Students attending Catholic schools also participate in this sacramental preparation through the parish.

### **First Eucharist:**

Preparation for First Eucharist takes place during 3rd Grade and is designed to help children grow in their understanding of Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist and the importance of the Mass in our Catholic faith.

Children meet weekly in small groups and gather once each month as a larger group. The program includes parent participation, home-based activities, liturgical celebrations, and other special events throughout the year.

This is a full-year program that culminates in the reception of First Holy Communion in the spring. Students attending Catholic schools also participate in this sacramental preparation through the parish.

**Confirmation:**

Confirmation preparation is a distinct catechetical process for young people seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Opportunities are provided for candidates to deepen their faith through retreats, liturgical celebrations, service opportunities, and participation in various forms of prayer. The program extends over a two-year period and is designed to help young people grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and their understanding of the Catholic faith.

Service projects constitute an important component of the program, providing candidates with opportunities to live out their faith through service to others. Parental involvement and support are essential in helping young people develop a strong connection to the parish community and prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Catholic School Students:** Diocesan guidelines require two years of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. All sacramental preparation takes place within the parish community, which serves as the primary faith community for young people preparing to receive the Sacrament.

Therefore, students attending Catholic schools are also required to participate in the parish Confirmation program. This preparation not only prepares them for the reception of the Sacrament but also strengthens their connection to the life of the parish and their peers.

**Confirmation preparation begins in Grade 7 and culminates with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation at the conclusion of Grade 8.**

**Readiness for Confirmation:**

Preparation for Confirmation is a two-year process that includes regular participation in Sunday Mass, Holy Days of Obligation, and Faith Formation classes. Attendance at Mass is an essential part of growing in faith and preparing to receive the Sacrament.

Readiness for Confirmation includes a candidate's commitment to participating fully in the life of the Church, including faithful attendance at Mass and active participation in the Confirmation program. Recurring absences from classes and/or a lack of regular Mass attendance may result in the postponement of Confirmation until the candidate is adequately prepared to receive the Sacrament.

## **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

Registration for the Faith Formation Program is open to families who are registered parishioners of St. John Vianney Parish. Registration is required for all children participating in Faith Formation classes.

Registration fees should accompany the registration form unless other arrangements have been made with the Pastor or the Faith Formation Office. Families may register online through the parish website at [sjvparish.org](http://sjvparish.org). If you prefer to register by mail, please download the registration form and submit it along with your payment.

## **PARISH FAMILY AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **Mass Participation:**

As the primary educators of your children in the faith, parents play an essential role in their spiritual formation. Faith Formation classes are intended to support, not replace, regular participation in Sunday Mass.

"Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day" (Exodus 20:8).

Weekly Mass attendance is both a commandment of God and a precept of the Church. We gather at Mass to worship God, celebrate with our parish family, and receive His grace, strength, and wisdom through the Eucharist.

### **Parent Meeting Attendance:**

St. John Vianney Parish strives to fulfill its mission of partnering with parents in the faith formation of their children. Parent meetings provide important opportunities for communication, formation, and collaboration between families and the parish.

Meetings are scheduled sparingly and with respect for the demands of family life. Your participation is valued and plays an important role in the success of our Faith Formation program.

### **Student Behavior:**

Students are expected to demonstrate Christian values through respectful behavior toward catechists, fellow students, parish staff, and parish property.

Parents are responsible for any damages caused by their child. Should behavioral concerns persist, alternative accommodations may need to be considered.

Students are expected to attend all classes, special celebrations, retreats, and related activities and to arrive on time. If an absence is necessary due to illness or another serious

reason, parents or guardians should notify the catechist or Faith Formation Coordinator in advance whenever possible.

Please note that participation in other extracurricular activities is generally not considered an excused absence. Normally, no more than two absences are permitted during the Faith Formation year. Excessive absences may impact a student's readiness to advance to the next level of formation or to receive a sacrament.

### **SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING**

As mandated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and in cooperation with the Office of Education and Compliance of the Diocese of Providence, all St. John Vianney Parish employees and volunteers receive Safe Environment Training to help ensure that all young people in our parish come to know God and His Church in a safe and appropriate setting.

The Diocese of Providence also requires criminal background checks for all individuals who work with children and young people. Only those who successfully complete the required screening process are permitted to serve in ministry with minors. The Office of Education and Compliance investigates all complaints received in an impartial and professional manner.

For further information, please contact:

**Kevin O'Brien**

Director, Office of Compliance  
80 St. Mary's Drive  
Cranston, RI 02920  
401-941-0760  
[kobrien@dioceseofprovidence.org](mailto:kobrien@dioceseofprovidence.org)

### **CIRCLE OF GRACE**

The Diocese of Providence requires the Circle of Grace curriculum to be presented to all children enrolled in parish Faith Formation programs. Circle of Grace teaches children and youth that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and is deserving of dignity and respect.

The curriculum helps children develop an understanding of healthy relationships, appropriate boundaries, and personal safety. It also provides age-appropriate language and tools to help children communicate concerns and seek assistance when needed.

For further information, please contact:

**Dr. Michael Hansen**

Diocesan Outreach and Prevention Office  
80 St. Mary's Drive  
Cranston, RI 02920  
401-946-0728  
[mhansen@dioceseofprovidence.org](mailto:mhansen@dioceseofprovidence.org)

## **CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

St. John Vianney Parish adopts, implements, and enforces the Diocese of Providence Code of Ethical Conduct for the protection of children and vulnerable individuals.

## **COMMUNICATION**

It is important that we maintain the most current contact information for every family. If your contact information changes during the year, please notify the Faith Formation Office promptly. This includes home and cell phone numbers, email addresses, emergency contacts, and any pertinent child custody information.

It is important that we have the most up-to-date contact information. If during the year your contact information changes, please notify the Faith Formation staff immediately. This includes home or cell phone and the designated person to call should we not be able to reach you in an emergency. Pertinent information concerning child custody must be shared with the Director.

## **WEATHER CANCELLATIONS**

If Cumberland Public Schools are canceled due to inclement weather or other extenuating circumstances on a scheduled Faith Formation day, classes will also be canceled. Additional cancellation notices will be communicated via email and posted on the parish website.

## **MEDICAL/ALLERGY INFORMATION**

Please be sure to include all medical conditions, allergies, and other pertinent health information on your child's registration form. Any changes that occur during the year should be communicated promptly to the Director of Faith Formation.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

Please inform the Faith Formation staff of any academic, behavioral, medical, or environmental accommodations that may help us better support your child.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact:

**Dashe Videira**

Director of Faith Formation & Confirmation Coordinator

(401) 333-2347

[sjv.education@gmail.com](mailto:sjv.education@gmail.com)