



## FAITH FORMATION 2025-2026 – ST. JOSEPH PARISH – LINCOLN, NH

### CALENDAR

Our first class for the 2025-2026 school year will be on Catechetical Sunday, September 21, 2025. Classes are held from 9:00-9:55am **every other Sunday** in our St. Anne Room downstairs. After class, the children meet their families upstairs to **attend 10:00am Mass** with their families. Special events are scheduled for each major liturgical season: Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. We typically end our program the first week of June, before the end of the school year. There are a total of 18 classes scheduled during the school year (and a couple of special events). Attendance for 85% of the classes (15) is required to be promoted to the next grade level of the curriculum.

### PROGRAM

St. Joseph's Faith Formation program, available to Catholic families domiciled within the territorial boundaries of St. Joseph Parish, helps our children learn about God's love by studying, praying, and playing together.

#### Studying

St. Joseph's Faith Formation program uses the *Spirit of Truth* "Walking with Jesus" curriculum. It is a curriculum that is aligned with the liturgical calendar and gospel readings throughout the year. Games and videos are used in many of our lessons to engage the children.

Sacramental preparation also uses Sophia Institute curriculum materials. Children who have completed three years of study (grades K, 1, 2) are eligible to receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation. In addition to curriculum content covered throughout the year, we partner with Holy Trinity Parish in Plymouth for final preparations for the sacraments of Confirmation/First Eucharist. The mandatory requirements include a retreat and other meaningful activities (preparing a Seder meal, participating in acts of charity, and journaling, for example).

#### Praying

We pray at the opening of every class. The students learn the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Guardian Angel prayers. Children preparing for First Reconciliation also learn the Act of Contrition.

We learn what prayer is, how to pray, and explore the four different types of prayer – Praise & Glorify, Petition, Intercession, and Thanksgiving.

We also learn how to use our hand to pray. The Five Finger Prayer reminds us to pray for (thumb) the people closest to our hearts, (pointer) those that guide us, teach us, and heal us, (middle finger) leaders and people in authority, (ring finger – the weakest finger) those in need, and (pinky) finally, to be grateful for your blessings.

#### Playing

We learn best when we're having fun! The students love crafts – with our families, we make Advent calendars, participate in a Lenten activity, and enjoy an excursion to the Ice Castles in January/February. We lead the Children's Stations of the Cross during Lent and share a bread and soup supper with parishioners after. We celebrate the end of our Faith Formation and/or open our new year with an excursion to Hobo Hills Golf or a pool party/cookout.