



SAINT PIUS X
5 BARBARA STREET
SOUTH YARMOUTH, MA 02664
www.stpiusxsy.com

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

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St. Pius X Pastor

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Dear Parents:

In these past years the church has recognized the pervasiveness of child abuse and neglect. Children are the most vulnerable segment of our population, and our most valuable resource for the future. As a Christian Catholic community we share a common belief that we are all created in God's image, that children are special to God, and that God reaches out to help those in need.

The Diocese of Fall River has a long-standing practice of protecting the children and youth in our care, starting with the creation of our first child protection program in 1993. After the 2002 Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People we implemented a child protection curriculum that has been used in conjunction with our Faith Formation programs. The Diocese of Fall River has implemented a program named "Circle of Grace" which integrates the parish Faith Formation curriculum with age appropriate lesson plans. The lessons are different for each grade.

As we begin our new year of Faith Formation, we look forward to growing together in our faith in Jesus. The handing on of our faith to our youth is both an opportunity and a challenge in today's world.

As parents, you are the primary educators of your children. The purpose of our office is to assist you with their Faith Formation instruction and spiritual guidance. Please be assured that every effort has been made to ensure that the content and methodology that is used here is sensitive to your child's age and development.

Certainly, weekend Mass is central to the life of faith of not only your children, but for all of us as members of the Church. It is our hope and expectation that in spite of our busy lives, that we teach our children the importance of our commitment to weekly Mass by example.

We are grateful to the many volunteers who have made the commitment to share our faith with your children. Faithful participation in classes each week will enable your children

to come to know, love and serve the Lord as
member of His Body, the Church.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. John Kelleher, Pastor

Ms. Kathleen Bailey, Director of Faith Formation

Ms. Shanna Kelly, Director of Faith Formation

Contact Information

Faith Formation Office 508-394-0709
stpiusxreled@comcast.net

Parish website

www.stpiusxsy.com

Faith Formation Facebook:

facebook.com/stpiusxfaithformationsy

FAITH FORMATION 2021-2022

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Each family must be a registered member of the Parish. Parish registration forms can be downloaded from the Parish website (www.stpiusxsy.com), or picked up at the Rectory weekdays between 9:00 - 5:00 (508-398-2248), and the Faith Formation office.

A Baptismal certificate must be on file in the Faith Formation Office for each child who was not baptized at St Pius X.

It is necessary to re-register for Faith Formation each year. Each family must fill out one Family Card (white), a standard info form (pink), and a Bus Permission Form; for grades 4 and 5 only (green). List all the children on the white card (even if they attend Catholic School). If there is more than one last name in the family, please make clear what the legal name of each child is. Be sure to include home and cell phone numbers,

email addresses and indicate which the best way to reach you.

Emergency contact information is only used if we cannot contact a parent first. Please print carefully.

Fees:

\$50.00* per child, \$70.00* for two children, for three or more children \$90.00* per family. Payments may be deferred or made in installments, but please do not delay registration, as class size is limited. Scholarships are available, call for more information.

There will be an additional \$20.00 fee for Second Grade and Ninth Grade students due to the expenses of the Retreats.

You may bring your completed registration materials to the Faith Formation Office or mail to the Faith Formation Office,
5 Barbara Street, S. Yarmouth, MA 02664.

KINDERGARTEN – (OPTIONAL)

Will be held on Sundays following the homily at the 8:00 Mass. Kindergarten will be dismissed from Mass with the 1st grade beginning Sunday, September 26th. Catechists will accompany students to the parish hall. Classes will end at 9:00 A.M. Parents should meet the children upstairs, in the back of the Faith Formation Hall.

FIRST COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION – (GRADES 1 & 2):

The 8:00 AM Mass is our family Mass. Following the homily, all students in the first year (First Grade) of preparation for Reconciliation and First Communion will be dismissed from Mass to the Religious Education Center after the homily. Regular classes for grade 1 will begin on Sunday, September 26th. Classes will end at 9:00 A.M. Parents should meet the children upstairs, in the back of the Religious Education Hall.

Since learning about Mass is an important part of preparing for Sacraments, classes for children in the second year (Second

Grade) of preparation will take place after the 8:00 AM Family Mass. Classes begin at 9:15 A.M. and dismissal is at 10:30 A.M. Parents should meet their students in the Faith Formation Hall. If it is necessary to drop your child off early for class please accompany them into the building as there is not always someone there to attend to them. Regular classes for grade 2 will begin on Sunday, September 26th at 9:15 A.M.

GRADE 2 REMINDER:

Children, who have completed the first year of sacramental preparation, are required to recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father, and Act of Contrition before First Reconciliation and Communion. Call or email the Faith Formation Office for an appointment.

DELAYED SACRAMENTS –

Many children beyond Grade 2 have not celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and/or First Communion. We do provide special classes for these children.

Please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information.

GRADE 3:

Classes for Grade 3 will take place on Sunday mornings. Classes begin at 9:15 A.M. and dismissal is at 10:30 A.M. Parents should meet their students in the Faith Formation Hall. Classes begin on Sunday, September 26th.

GRADES 4 AND 5:

Classes begin Monday, September 27th.

Bus Info:

Bus transportation is available to St. Pius X at regular dismissal time from Nathaniel H. Wixon Innovation School on Mondays for Grades 4 and 5. (See Bus Permission – green form) If the school does not have parental permission, your child(ren) will be sent home on the regular bus.

It is expected that all children will conduct themselves with Christian regard for the safety of their classmates and the authority of the bus driver. Children who do not behave will be asked to find alternate

travel arrangements. If you drive, please accompany your child into the building, because there is not always someone there to attend to them. Class for Grades 4 and 5 will begin at 3:30; dismissal is at 5:00 P.M.

GRADES 6, 7, and 8:

Classes begin Monday, September 27th, from 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. Parents are invited to attend the beginning of the first class if they wish. Each week, all students in grades 6, 7 and 8, will bring home their books and they are expected to read the lesson for the following week. Each week they should come to class prepared and with their books. The books should be treated carefully so they last throughout the year. Replacement fee is \$20.00

DISMISSAL:

Parents, please pick up your child promptly at the end of their session. If a child must be dismissed early from class, they should bring a note for the teacher. The parent is asked to come into the building and sign them out with the receptionist. Children will not be allowed to wait outside while

classes are in session. If you have a problem and expect to be late, please call so we can explain to your child and have them wait inside with one of us.

GRADE 9 (Confirmation Candidates)

Sunday evening Mass/Class will include the 5:00 Mass and continue to 7:30 P.M. in the Faith Formation Center. Please note very carefully the schedule of those classes as there are only 14 classes. Mass is an integral part of the session. We hope that families would attend Mass and sit with their child in the section we have reserved. The first class is September 26th.

*Reminder: Confirmation Retreat will be Sunday March 6th 3:00 – 7:30 PM

THE DRESS CODE.

How students dress affects attitude and behavior. We have adopted a similar dress code for Faith Formation as the Dennis Yarmouth School System. Cleats, “Heelies” and slippers are not to be worn to Faith Formation. Any clothing or jewelry that is offensive, obscene or inappropriate, that includes short shorts, tank or tube tops, exposed midriffs or pants that

hang down and expose underwear, as well as “pajamas” may not be worn to Faith Formation. No one may wear hats or “hoodies” Clothing with reference to cigarettes, alcohol, or inappropriate language is not allowed

GENERAL NOTES:

Mass is a large part of Christian formation. Our teaching is based on the expectation that each child attends Mass and is encouraged in participation and understanding by their family. As the mystery of the Mass unfolds the child’s faith formation deepens. The children should be experiencing an ongoing, lifelong conversion or deepening of faith.

Faith Formation is a limited process. We meet with each child for approximately 24 hours during a school year. Since it is such a short amount of time, each class is important and each child is expected to attend all classes. Students are deprived of learning great lessons about our faith when they are absent.

Regular attendance is expected. If you know in advance that your child will miss a

class, please let us know and complete the lesson at home. In case of emergency or illness the child will be expected to complete the make-up work upon returning.

The parents of any student who has missed more than 3 classes and/or has not completed the work must meet with the Director of Faith Formation before the child's return to class.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Please take special care in filling out the section under Special Considerations/Medical or Educational on the Family Card. While we do not have special need's teachers, we are willing to accommodate a child's special need. Our volunteers try to be sensitive to each child's needs. If your child has reading problems, we suggest you take time to go over the lessons at home. It would be helpful if we knew that a child is on medication, or an IEP, or any other special circumstance, so that we can plan accordingly. In some cases we can arrange for an extra person to be with your child. However, we do have a reasonable

expectation for appropriate behavior. We would like to make each situation easier. Please call the office if you would like to discuss or explain anything that will make your child more comfortable while they are here and let us know if there are any changes throughout the year.

BEHAVIOR:

Christian behavior is expected from everyone. All participants in St. Pius X Faith Formation have the responsibility to conduct themselves with respect for others. In the event that there is a problem and classroom rules are not followed we will ask parents to work with us to resolve the problem. If resolution is not possible and the student continues to be disruptive they will be sent home and we will schedule a conference with the student, parent and catechist to create a plan for success.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

For general announcements we use Blackboard Connect messaging system. On the "Blackboard Connect Form" (purple) List the emergency phone number(s) and email(s)

where you wish to receive general information and emergency messages. Please write carefully.

VOLUNTEERS:

Faith Formation is only possible with the support of more than 100 volunteers. If your child is part of the program, we hope that you could help in some way. We need teachers, aides, receptionists, office help, as well as help with special projects throughout the year. Please consider how you can help.

All persons working with children in the Fall River Diocese must complete a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) annually. If you have questions or would like any other information please call, 508-394-0709, or email, stpiusxreled@comcast.net.

FAITH FORMATION FACEBOOK PAGE

In addition to the Parish Calendar and Faith Formation Website tab you will now be able to access Faith Formation information on our new St. Pius X Faith Formation Facebook Page, [facebook.com/stpiusxfaithformationsy](https://www.facebook.com/stpiusxfaithformationsy). Please check the page regularly for up to date

information on lessons, updates and news in the Faith Formation Program. This is a public page, you do not need a Facebook account to view it.

FAITH-SHARING IN THE FAMILY

As parents you have a sacred trust! You are the primary educators of your children. The Religious Education that your child receives here at St. Pius will supplement what is taught and practiced at home. God calls you to nurture not only the physical and mental growth of your child but also your child's spiritual well-being. This responsibility requires that you grow in faith yourselves and that you share your faith with your family. Our children need to hear us speak about our faith. They need strong role models to show them in word and action how faith works in the lives of faith-filled adults.

The Church calls us to Mass on the Lord's Day to strengthen us through God's Word, the sacrament of the Eucharist and the support of the community of believers to follow Christ each and every day. Christ called

us to community so that we may support one another on our faith journey. Attendance and participation at Mass is a principle teaching of the Church. Please support and assist your child in this commitment. Your presence there will not only support them, but, support you in your personal journey of faith, in your relationship with God, with one another and finally in your vocation as parents.

We try to model our lives on the life of Jesus. We love one another, care for the less fortunate, honor God, and love our families. Our children need to see us being people of compassion, forgiveness and justice. We need to be people of prayer, to encourage family prayer; grace before meals or bedtime blessings. On our life long journeys of faith we continue to grow by reading the Bible or other spiritual books, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) regularly.

Engage in God talk. Talk about your faith. Both you and your children will be richer for it.

