

# St. Matthew Faith Formation 2019-2020



Parent Information and Guidelines

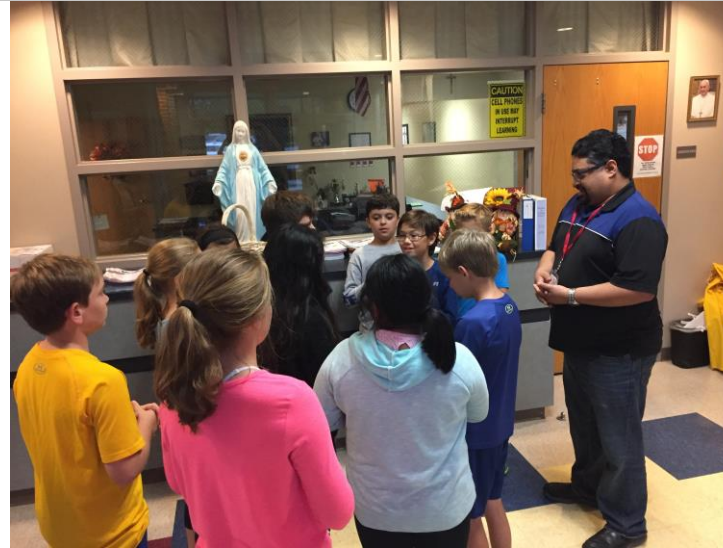
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*The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:52*

# Welcome to Faith Formation!

*Our primary goals in all our programs is to provide families with an opportunity to encounter Christ through spiritual, social and service-based activities and lessons.*

*It is an honor and a privilege to serve and support your family!*



## Parent Involvement

As the primary catechists in a child's faith life, we feel the presence of parents is crucial to our programming.

We offer a variety of volunteer roles with flexible time commitments (*see next page*).

If however, a parent is unable to commit to one of these volunteer roles, ***every parent in our program is expected to be present at a minimum of three sessions*** as support for the children, other volunteers and faith formation team.

# Program Volunteer Opportunities

## Preschool or Elementary

**Sunday PS/KN Catechist** – those who shepherd the children, facilitate lessons and crafts (*Commitment: weekly, minus holidays*)

**Elementary Catechists** – those who shepherd the youth, build relationships and facilitate lessons (*Commitment: 2x/month*)

**Elementary Activity Leaders** – those who facilitate craft, music, games or kinesthetic learning time; (*Commitment: 1-2x/month*)

**Sacramental Catechists** – those who guide the children through lessons to prepare for Reconciliation and First Communion. (*Commitment: 2x/month*)

**RCIC Catechists** – those who guide older children (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) through lessons to prepare for Reconciliation and First Eucharist. (*Commitment: weekly, minus holidays*)

## Special Events

**Family Connections/Special Events** – helping to plan, prepare or facilitate monthly events (*Commitment: seasonally*)

**Family Discipleship** – help facilitate preset activity for children and parents (*Commitment: 6x/year*)

## Special Needs

**SPRED**– one-on-one catechist for our special needs friends, facilitating lesson (*Commitment: 2x/month*)

**BRIDGE** – one-on-one mentor for child with special needs in mainstream program (*Commitment: 2x/month*)

## Middle or High School

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Catechists** – those who shepherd the youth, build relationships and facilitate lessons (*Commitment: 2x/month*)

**Edge Small Group Leaders** – those who facilitate group discussions, build relationships and mentor youth preparing for Confirmation (*Commitment: 2x/month*)

**RCIT Catechists** – those who guide teens through lessons to prepare for Confirmation or full initiation into the Catholic Church (*Commitment: weekly, minus holidays*)

**Life Teen Core Member** – those who facilitate group discussions, build relationships and mentor teens in walking as disciples of Christ (*Commitment: weekly, minus holidays*)

**Responsibilities for all Volunteers:** *complete all safe environment requirements; be prepared and on time; continue formation in your own faith life; pray for and love the youth and families you serve*

# Behavior and Conduct Expectations

**S**how respect for yourself and others.

**A**lways keep your hands and feet to yourself.

**I**f it does not belong to you, do not touch it.

**N**ice words, good choices – always be kind.

**T**ry your best.

**S**pend time in prayer every day.

*The Faith Formation community of St. Matthew expects all our members – children, teens and adults – to adhere to the rules set forth by God: the Ten Commandments, and to always conduct themselves as instructed by Jesus: love one another.*

*We may not always understand each other, we may not always like each other, but we must love each other and treat each other in a loving, merciful way.*

We have a  
**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**  
for bullying or threats of any nature by adults or by children.



# Sacramental Preparation

*If your child has not been baptized, please contact the Director of Religious Education to learn how to proceed.*

## Reconciliation and First Eucharist

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Children who have completed first grade Faith Formation or Catholic school must register with the Faith Formation office in second grade in order to receive the sacraments in the parish. *If there has not been a year of Faith Formation or Catholic school completed, parents must contact the Director of Religious Education to learn how to proceed.*

### PUBLIC or PRIVATE (non-Catholic) SCHOOL

Children begin their preparation by registering for “**Year 1**” in either first or second grade, followed by “**Year 2**” in second or third grade. It is during Year 2 that both sacraments will be received.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade or Older

Children entering the program in third grade or older are eligible for our RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children) or RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens) program and should contact the Director of Religious Education to learn how to proceed.

## Confirmation

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Youth who have completed seventh grade Faith Formation or Catholic school must register with the Faith Formation office in eighth grade in order to receive the sacrament in the parish. *If there has not been a year of Faith Formation or Catholic school completed, parents must contact the Director of Religious Education to learn how to proceed.*

### PUBLIC or PRIVATE (non-Catholic) SCHOOL

Youth begin their preparation by registering for **Edge** in seventh grade, followed by a second year in **Edge** in eighth grade. Reception of the sacrament occurs at the end of eighth grade.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade or Older

Children entering the program in high school are eligible for our RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens) program and should contact the Director of Religious Education to learn how to proceed.



# Session Times Offered

## Sunday Preschool-Kindergarten

Offered for children ages 3 through Kindergarten; Weekly on Sundays during the 9 and 10:45 am Masses.

## Kindergarten (Weekday)

Monday 4 to 5:30 pm; 6 to 7:30 pm

Tuesday 4:30 to 6 pm; 6:30 to 8 pm

\*Wednesday 3:15 to 4:45 pm; 5:15 to 6:45 pm

## First Communion Preparation

### Year 1 (1st or 2nd Grade) and Year 2 (2nd or 3rd Grade)

*Year 1 must be completed in a Faith Formation program or Catholic School before beginning Year 2.*

Sunday 3:30 to 5 pm

Monday 4 to 5:30 pm; 6 to 7:30 pm

Tuesday 4:30 to 6 pm; 6:30 to 8 pm

\*Wednesday 3:15 to 4:45 pm; 5:15 to 6:45 pm

## Older Elementary (3rd to 5th)

Family Discipleship (see next page)

Sunday 3:30 to 5 pm

Monday 4 to 5:30 pm; 6 to 7:30 pm

Tuesday 4:30 to 6 pm; 6:30 to 8 pm

\*Wednesday 3:15 to 4:45 pm; 5:15 to 6:45 pm

## Middle School (6th Grade)

Family Discipleship (see next page)

Sunday 3:30 to 5 pm

Monday 6 to 7:30 pm

Tuesday 6:30 to 8 pm

\*Wednesday 5:15 to 6:45 pm; 7 to 8:30 pm

## Edge Confirmation Program

### 7th and 8th Grade

*Both 7th and 8th are necessary for receiving the sacrament.*

Sunday 3:30 to 5 pm; 7 to 8:30 pm

Monday 6 to 7:30 pm

Tuesday 6:30 to 8 pm

\*Wednesday 7 to 8:30 pm

## Rite of Christian Initiation Programs

*If you have a child who is entering 3rd grade or older, and has not received the sacraments of Reconciliation or First Communion, please contact Diane Kiradjieff. If you have a high school teen who has not received the sacrament of Confirmation (or is seeking reception of Baptism or First Eucharist as well), please do not complete this registration, but contact Adrian Quintero.*

Sunday 3:30 to 5 pm

Monday 6 to 7:30 pm

*\*held at Waxhaw campus*

# 2019-2020

## Schedule of Sessions

### Sunday Sessions (Main Campus)

PS-KN (During 9 and 10:45 am Mass)

Year 1 to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (3:30 to 5 pm)

Edge (3:30 to 5 pm or 7 to 8:30 pm)

RCIC, RCIT (3:30 to 5 pm)

HS Life Nights (6:45 to 8:30 pm)

### Monday Sessions (Main Campus)

Kn to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (4 to 5:30 pm)

Kn to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (6 to 7:30 pm)

Edge (6 to 7:30 pm)

RCIC, RCIT (6 to 7:30 pm)

### Tuesday Sessions (Main Campus)

Kn to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (4:30 to 6 pm)

Kn to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (6:30 to 8 pm)

Edge (6:30 to 8 pm)

### Wednesday Sessions (Waxhaw)

Kn to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (3:15 to 4:45 pm)

Kn to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (5:15 to 6:45 pm)

6<sup>th</sup> Grade, Edge (7 to 8:30 pm)

September						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- = Sunday PS/KN; RCIC/RCIT
- = In Session
- = Family Discipleship
- = Xtreme Edge
- = Edge Retreat (October)
- = Reconciliation Retreat (November)
- = Life Teen Retreat (February)
- = Ingite Conference (March)
- = First Eucharist Retreat (April)

# Policies & Expectations

## Attendance

Regular attendance is expected. Up to three absences are permitted before makeup work is necessary for sacramental preparation years. *If you are aware that your child will be missing a number of classes due to activities or family obligations please contact the Office of Faith Formation before the absences occur.*

**Please keep your child home if he/she has displayed any flu-like symptoms or fever within 24 hours of their session.** We will make use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer, encourage hand-washing, and supply sanitizing wipes in each classroom.

If your child is ill, and will miss several classes, please let the Faith Formation team know!

## Early Dismissal\*

To minimize disrupting your child's small faith community and to respect the time offered by the volunteer catechists, we ask that students **not** be picked up early unless there is an **illness or emergency or a school obligation.**

If you are picking up early due to a conflict with sports or activities, we respectfully ask that you balance taking your child out of their Faith Formation session early with allowing them to arrive late for the activity on occasion.

*If you pick your child up early more than twice, you will be asked to choose a different session time.*

**\*Photo ID Required for any early pick-up.**

## Cell Phones/Electronics

**During sessions, teens and children are expected to be fully present and involved in the activity or discussion that is taking place.** It is not necessary for them to have their cell phones. We prefer that they not be brought as they serve as a tempting distraction and youth do not always respect the 'silenced, out-of-sight and not used' expectation. *If phones are brought and a youth is seen using it during session time, the phone will be confiscated and held until the end of session.* Session time begins at the moment we open in prayer and ends when they are safely back in your care.

*The Office of Faith Formation is not responsible for lost or damaged cell phones.*



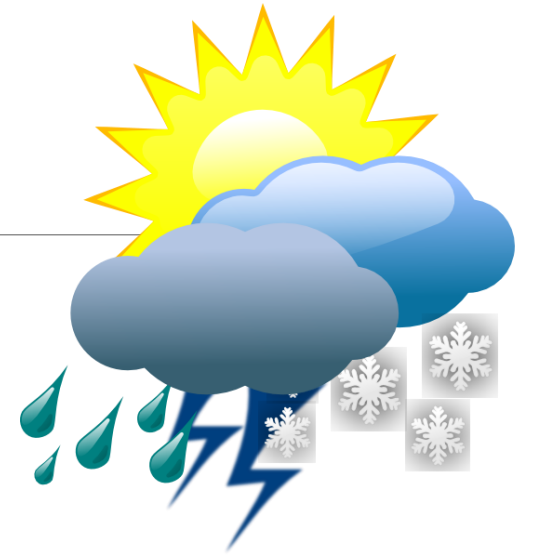
# Inclement Weather Policy

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In the event of inclement weather, parents will be notified via:

1. [Website](#) Posting
2. Parish App (text *app* to 88202 to download)
3. Social Media (see next page for address, or search St. Matthew)

We do **not** cancel classes based upon CMS or UCPS closings, so please be alert and check the website or parish app for session status.



# Stay Connected! Stay Informed!

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 Parish App – Text *app* to 88202 to download

Parish Website – [stmatthewcatholic.org/faithformation](https://stmatthewcatholic.org/faithformation)

Social Media - @stmatthewnc, @stmatthewcatholic, @stmatt vm

Bulletin



*As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Faith Formation directly!*

**Office: 704.541.8362 or 704.543.7677     [faithform@stmatthewcatholic.org](mailto:faithform@stmatthewcatholic.org)**