



St. Luke's Parish

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Faith & Family Catechism
Program

www.st-luke.ca/faithed



"Learning as a Family" GUIDELINES

The family is our first community and the most basic way in which we discover the meaning of life and the meaning of our faith. The church believes in working in partnership with the family to bring forth a meaningful faith journey. ***Our "Learning as a Family" Program allows the family to be the first educators in the faith of their child while partnering with the parish who will provide age-appropriate faith enrichment activities as well as a sound Children's Sunday Liturgy program.***

With the help of many volunteers, we promise to bring Jesus to your children with love, faith and integrity. Our teaching tool for catechism is Faith First (www.faithfirst.com) and for Children's Liturgy we use Gospel Weeklies (www.pflaum.com)

EXPECTATIONS OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Registration in the *Faith & Family* Catechism Program raises the expectation that **your household** will **participate actively** and **responsibly** in the faith journey of your child. Our catechism program relies on your collaboration as well as the good will of our volunteers.

Out of respect for our volunteers, and to ensure the **safety, enjoyment and spiritual development** of all the children and families enrolled in the *Faith & Family* program we have established certain expectations:

Parents

1. Ensure that your child punctually attends the catechetical activities planned for his/her level as per the provided schedule.
2. Should an absence be unavoidable, ensure that the absence is reported and that the workbook be submitted to the Faith Education Team for review at a later date
3. Attend weekly mass with your child. Children's liturgy is available for your child beginning at the end of September until Father's Day. No registration is required this is part of the Faith & Family program.
4. Attend **CAFE** (**Catholic Adult Faith Enrichment**) workshops. Day and evening workshops are offered. The schedule will be available in September
5. Participate in family events offered by the Office of Faith Formation and Evangelization at St. Luke.

Children

1. Show respect to fellow students and leaders.
2. Refrain from using foul language.
3. Refrain from disruptive behaviour.
4. Refrain from causing bodily harm to other students and leaders.
5. Show respect for class supplies and facilities.

Should we experience difficulties with your child the following procedures will be followed:

- Step 1: The catechist will intervene with the child and/or parent.
- Step 2: If necessary, the coordinator will intervene with the child and/or parent.
- Step 3: If further intervention is still necessary, the parent(s) will be contacted and asked to attend class with their child.
- Step 4: Should parents fail to comply with step 3 or if the child's behaviour routinely interferes with the functioning of the *Faith & Family* catechism program, the child will be asked to withdraw from catechism for the remainder of the year.

Step 5: The following year, the Parish Catechetical Leader and the child's parents will re-evaluate the child's readiness and desire to resume the faith journey.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Given that children in the **"Learning as a Family"** program do not attend weekly catechism classes, he/she is expected to attend all pastoral activities (3 or 4 per level) that have been scheduled. The schedule of these events is found in your child's book. A reminder e-mail will be sent out prior to the event. Repeated absences can jeopardize the completion of your child's program. Should an absence be unavoidable, ensure that the absence is reported by calling 514-683-4941. Children who miss certain activities will be expected to complete an assignment in order to cover some of the content.

BOOK COMPLETION POLICY

Every child **must complete his/her workbook before entering the next level**. Books should be submitted to the Faith Education Team for review by the end of May. A certificate of completion will be remitted. Families requiring the summer to complete their child's book are asked to submit a written request and attach it to their child's re-registration form. A form is available for this purpose.

MASS

One of the best ways to make this faith journey meaningful is to celebrate the Mass together as a family. Mass attendance is an obligation we take on as baptized people. When we bring our children to be baptized, we promise to raise them in the faith. Going to Mass is part of this commitment. Children's Liturgy for children 3 to 12 years old is available at all masses from the end of September until June.

For that reason, parents are expected to attend Mass on Saturday or Sunday. (Mass celebrated on Saturday after 5:00 pm is considered a "Sunday" Mass.)

Mass Schedule

English Mass: Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 am, Sunday 12:30pm
French Mass: Sunday 10:45 am

SACRAMENTS

* A child may receive the Sacrament of First Communion when he/she completes 2 years of catechism. Following his/her First Communion, a child is expected to fully participate in the next levels of faith formation. A child may then request the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation when he/she is in the process of completing the Level 6 program.

* First Communion and Confirmation celebrations will take place after Easter. First Communion families will be receiving a letter requesting your choice of dates. This will be found in the child's duo tang when they receive their level 2 book in the fall. Your date will be confirmed in January and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. We appreciate your understanding in accepting the dates that will be given to you. This demonstrates a true sense of community. Where changes are requested due to extenuating circumstances, please know that every possible effort will be made to accommodate you.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The parish community at large financially supports the Office of Faith Formation and Evangelization, however, **a financial contribution is requested yearly at registration**. Your contribution fee is an important aspect of maintaining our current level of programs. Your contribution covers about 50% of our costs. The fee/contribution structure can be found on the registration form.

Our costs include workbooks for your child, catechist's manuals, supplies, resources, formation and support for our catechetical team and staff. The parish provides comfortable classrooms as well as a beautiful church that is inviting and well maintained.

Families in our program benefit not only from a workbook but from the dedication of our volunteer catechists, the expertise of our staff, pastoral activities for the children, retreats, seasonal liturgies, complementary faith enrichment programs for adults (CAFE), family events, newsletters, Web Site and more.

All are welcome to participate regardless of their ability to pay. We understand that a family's particular situation may make this contribution difficult. We do not wish to add undue hardship on any family. Should this contribution be difficult please contact Michael Johnston. The conversation will be kept in the strictest confidence.

SECURITY COMES FIRST

The safety of all the children is our concern. Please help us keep all the children safe by following these simple rules:

1. Park your car properly in the parking lot... **DO NOT DOUBLE PARK OR BLOCK FIRE LANE.**
2. When picking up your child (regardless of his/her age): please come into the church and wait in the hall and/or church for your child to exit from his/her class
Feel free to come in and meet with the volunteers and the coordinators.

✓ **No child of any age should be waiting outside for their parents.**

WEATHER

In the event of an extreme snow/ice storm, please call the church to inquire if catechism is still on. There will always be someone to welcome the children if they come. However, use your judgment... if driving is dangerous, please stay home and review that week's lesson with your child.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

For the most part we will communicate with you through the Parish Bulletin and e-mail. Upcoming events are normally published in the weekly parish bulletin or are announced at the end of mass. The Calendar of events can also be found in the Faith Education Section of the Saint-Luke's WEB site – www.st-luke.ca

If you have a change of address, phone number or e-mail address, please notify the Faith Education Team, so we can keep our files current.

If any issues arise that require special attention or consideration, please notify your catechist or someone on the Faith Education Team (Julie, Carole, Wendy or Michael). *Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.* We will be happy to listen and to answer your questions, by appointment or when you bring your child to catechism or after the weekend masses.

Office of Faith Formation and Evangelization

faithed@st-luke.ca

Telephone: 514-683-4941 fax: 514-683-0836

<http://www.st-luke.ca/faithed>