



Middle School Ministry (6th-8th Grade) Expectations & Guide 2023 – 2024

Faith Nights

- All youth are invited to attend Faith-based gatherings every month, beginning in October, from 6:30pm – 8pm in Morris Center. Each month there will be two options, one on Sunday and one on Tuesday. Pay attention to the monthly calendar for announcements and schedule changes.
- Faith Nights are **Required for Year 1** Confirmation, First Communion, and/or Baptism.
 - Year 1 Confirmation begins in 8th Grade
 - First Communion and Baptism can be done at any time
- In order to count for Year 1, youth may not miss more than two (2) Faith Nights. We will not offer make-up work. **If you miss more than two (2) gatherings, you must return for another year before continuing onto Year 2 of your program.**

Additional Events

- In addition to the six (6) Faith Nights, Year 1 students must also attend six (6) additional events at St Clare. These events include:
 - Social Nights: Offered one Tuesday per month
 - First Communion Classes: Required for First Communion Year 2
 - K-5 Family Catechesis: Once per month, Sunday and Monday
 - Social Events/Fundraisers: Help setup/cleanup/serve at any parish event
 - Serve at Mass: Altar Server, Usher, Choir, etc.
 - Other parish ministries: Livestream, Library Committee, Social Concerns, etc.
 - Bible Study: 8th-12th Grade (See Calendar)

Social Nights

- Social Nights are open to all Middle School students in our community. There is no obligation to attend Social Nights but they will count towards Additional Events for Year 1 & Year 2.
- Food will be provided at Social Nights only.

First Communion Year 2

- Each First Communion candidate must attend sessions every month, beginning in October, from 6:30pm – 8pm in La Salle. These sessions are held on Thursdays, once per month.
- Youth may not miss more than two (2) First Communion sessions. Missed sessions will need to be made up. If you miss more than two (2) sessions, you must return for another year in the First Communion program.
- In addition to the seven (7) First Communion sessions, youth must also attend five (5) additional events at St Clare. (See Above)
- Prior to receiving First Communion, all youth will participate in their First Reconciliation. The scheduled date is **Mon, Jan 29 @6pm** in the Church. If you cannot attend this day, we will need to schedule a private reconciliation time with one of our priests.

Bible Study

- Bible Study is open to 8th-12th grade youth and is held on various Tuesday evenings.
- Commitment to all 9 sessions is not mandatory.

Confirmation Interview

An interview will be required for all candidates before they receive Confirmation. Through this process candidates will examine their faith and make a commitment to serve the church. The candidate will meet with the Youth Ministry Coordinator, Andres, and, if need, a parent, priest, or deacon. Interviews are generally completed at the end of Year 1.

Sundays and Holy Days Mass Attendance

The Mass and the Eucharist are the very center of our Catholic faith. The obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses, and to avoid unnecessary work on those days, is a responsibility for all Catholics. We expect all of our families to understand and accept this as a part of the faith.

- In addition to Sundays, in the United States the Holy Days of Obligation are:

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| November 1 | Solemnity of All Saints |
| December 8 | Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| December 25 | Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day) |
| January 1 | Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God |
| August 15 | Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary |

One-Day Retreat

- All Year 1 youth are required to attend a 1-day retreat at St Clare. The dates are:
 - 8th Grade – Sat, Oct 14 – 10am-2pm
 - 6th/7th Grade – Sat, Jan 27 – 10am-2pm
 - Confirmation Year 1 – Sat, Apr 13 – 10am-2pm

Parents' Participation

The participation of the parents in our Faith Formation programs is vital. It is important for parents to set examples for their children as they take on the responsibilities of a young Catholic.

Although it is the youth's responsibility to complete all requirements, it is the parents' duty to assist by making sure all tasks are done on time and that his or her child is at each scheduled activity.

Youth Behavior

If any youth are disruptive, parents will be notified immediately. Parents will need to schedule a meeting with the Youth Coordinator and their child to create a solution to meeting the youth's needs.

Communications

Andres Gonzalez
Coordinator of 6-12th Grade Ministry

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