



# FAITH FORMATION INFORMATION FOR 2024-25

August 11, 2024

Dear Parents, children, youth and adults:

Welcome to another year of Faith Formation. We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to come back to learning about our faith. We are certainly very excited to have you again.

The following are important reminders for the registration process, faith formation, and sacramental preparation:

## Registration

- Registration begins on Sunday, August 11. You must register your children/youth on time every year, even if they are going to a second year of preparation for a sacrament.
- Forms are online and are fillable. You can complete the form, save it and e-mail it to [mzayas@standrew-orlando.org](mailto:mzayas@standrew-orlando.org). Please answer all the questions on the form.
- If you prefer a printed copy of the registration form, please pick one up at the church office or during registration.
- There is a registration fee and a faith formation fee. The registration fee is \$25 per student, and it must be paid at the time of registration; that is, when you complete the form and are ready to turn it into the Church office to be processed. There are no discounts on the registration fees.
- The faith formation fee is based on the level of preparation and the sacraments for which the student is preparing. There is a discount on faith formation fees if you pay them before September 30. If not, you can pay in installments with the last payment to be made on December 31, 2024.
- If you have a balance due from the year before, it must be paid in full at the time of registration this year.
- You can pay registration and/or faith formation fees by check, cash or online. If paying online, you must pay the PayPal fee. You can go to our website ([www.standrew-orlando.org](http://www.standrew-orlando.org)) and click on the “donate” button. You must include the description of the payment and the names of the children being registered.
- Youth that have received their confirmation pay only the registration fee of \$25.

## Faith Formation

- Faith Formation is a process from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. We learn about God and his love for us and develop a relationship with God during this time. Children must come to faith formation every year regardless of whether they are going to receive a sacrament.
- Adults must also come to Faith Formation sessions during the time their children are in their session. Sessions are offered in English, Spanish, and Creole.
- There are two calendars for Sunday sessions this year, one for Grades K-6<sup>th</sup> and another one for Youth Ministry (Grades 7-12<sup>th</sup>). Parents with children in both levels will need both calendars.

- Attendance at Mass and Sunday sessions is a very important part of the faith formation process and especially for preparation for a sacrament. If you register late, the sessions that you missed at the beginning will be counted as absences. Please come to Sunday Mass with your children regularly.
- Youth in grades 7 through 12<sup>th</sup> are to attend Youth Ministry even after they have received their confirmation.

## **Sacramental Preparation—First Communion and Confirmation**

### First Communion

- Children must have their First Reconciliation to receive their First Communion; therefore, First Communion classes include preparation for First Reconciliation.
- Parents and/or guardians must attend adult First Communion sessions.
- Preparation for First Communion is a two-year process for children in public schools and a one-year process for children in Catholic school.
- **For Public School Children** preparation requires attendance at Mass and Sunday sessions during the first year of preparation and attendance at Mass, Sunday sessions and ten selected Wednesday sessions during the second year.
- **For Catholic School Children** preparation requires attendance at Sunday Mass and sessions as well as attendance at the ten selected Wednesday sessions.
- Children must be in third grade or above to receive their First Communion.
- If a child in the first or second year of preparation misses too many sessions or is not attending Mass, they will need to repeat the year.
- Baptism Certificates for children requesting First Communion must be submitted to the office with the registration form unless the child was baptized at St. Andrew.

### Confirmation

- Confirmation is received in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above.
- Confirmation is a two-year process **provided** the youth has attended Faith Formation continuously for the previous three years.
- Youth that do not have three continuous years of faith formation must complete three years of faith formation before being accepted into the two-year confirmation process.
- Preparation for Confirmation is the same for children in Public and Catholic schools.
- Children must have received their First Communion to receive their Confirmation.
- Confirmation requires Sunday Mass attendance as well as attendance at Sunday sessions during the first year of preparation; and Sunday Mass attendance, Sunday session attendance and attendance at 12 selected Wednesday sessions for the second year.
- Parents and/or guardians and sponsors must attend adult Confirmation sessions on selected Wednesdays.
- Youth preparing for Confirmation have 3 retreats to attend during the two-year period. The retreats are not offered every year; therefore, they must attend them when they are available.
- Youth preparing for Confirmation also have service hours to complete.
- Kathy Morgan, our youth minister, will schedule meetings with families in Confirmation preparation.