

# *Corpus Christi Parish*

## *Faith Formation Program*

### *Student Handbook*



#### **Corpus Christi Parish Office**

70 Pleasant Street  
Waterville, Maine 04901  
872-2281

#### **Lifelong Faith Formation Center**

17 So Garand Street  
Winslow, Me 04901  
660-9027

Pastor: Fr. Daniel Baillargeon  
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Patrick Finn

## **Importance of Faith Formation**

The mission of the Catholic Church is to bring the message of Jesus to all people.

When parents present their child to the Church for Baptism, they accept the responsibility of training him or her in the practice of the Catholic faith. It is the duty of the parents, with the help of the Godparents, to teach their child to keep God's commandments as Jesus taught us, loving God and neighbor.

*As a parent, you are the first teacher of your child.* Your child will learn from you what is important about our faith. Before they reach school age they have already learned from you the importance of unconditional love, and the concepts of right, wrong and forgiveness—some of the foundations of our faith. In addition, attending weekend Mass, bedtime prayers, traditions such as using an Advent wreath, saying the rosary, Lenten sacrificing, saying grace before meals, etc. all teach your child very important lessons at an early age.

**Corpus Christi Parish** is here to support you in the important endeavor of forming your child's faith. One way we do this is to provide Faith Formation programs at many levels of development. There are several session opportunities within our program for children in grades K-5.

## **Faith Formation Grades K-5**

Students in our programs will experience doctrine, scripture, and the liturgical seasons of our Catholic faith from trained volunteers using approved text books and materials. The beliefs of our faith are reinforced for our children as they grow, develop and mature.

We offer several options of sessions/formats to meet the various needs of today's families:

### **Sunday Morning Classes**

Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 8:30-9:45AM at our Faith Formation Center in Winslow. Students are grouped by age and instruction is led by trained catechists.

### **Monday Afternoon Classes**

This is a multi-age session led by an experienced catechist and an assistant from 3:00-4:30PM at the Alford Youth Center in Waterville. Students have the option of riding the bus from their elementary schools to the Alford Center for the session.

### **Family Life Program**

This program meets once each month from 3:00-5:00PM at Notre Dame Church and is designed for the entire family. Parents, together with their children, participate in these sessions that consist of varied lessons activities, and projects.

### **Home-based Formation**

If you prefer to teach your child at home we are happy to provide you with materials and support.

## **Junior High Youth Ministry Grades 6-8**

Junior High Youth Ministry sessions are held twice each month from 6:00-8:00PM at the Faith Formation Center in Winslow. These sessions include discussions, video, and service projects to actively engage students at this grade level.

## **High School Youth Ministry Grades 9-12**

Our high school students meet on Sundays at St. John School from 6:00-8:00PM. Bible study, faith sharing and service are a part of this program as well as participation in diocesan-wide High School Youth Ministry gatherings.

## **Sacramental Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist**

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist constitute the Sacraments of Initiation. Confirmation completes the Sacrament of Baptism. Eucharist is the heart of Christian life. In the Eucharist we are nourished by God's Word, and with His Body & Blood, which brings about a transformation calling us to greater love of God and neighbor.

Because of the centrality of these three sacraments to our faith, preparation is a two-year process that includes formation for the children as well as parent involvement. YEAR 1 provides an initial formation in the foundations of the faith. YEAR 2 teaches about the Sacraments and prepares children to receive. Reconciliation usually takes place during Lent; Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist the following fall.

This process will provide children with the time to learn and develop a relationship with God; understand and desire the sacraments; learn their prayers; and be involved in the life of the Church. Throughout both years, faith formation opportunities for parents/guardians will strengthen their own faith and support the formation of their children.

In addition to student classes, parents are required to attend several sessions during both the Year 1 and Year 2 programs so the parish can support them in raising their children in the faith.

Completing the Sacraments of Initiation marks the beginning of a new part of a child's journey of faith. With ongoing formation, children and families will come to a deeper relationship with Jesus through the working of the Holy Spirit.

The requirements for reception of these sacraments include:

- Regular attendance at Sunday Mass
- A copy of the baptismal certificate on file at the Faith Formation Office
- Completion of both the Year 1 and Year 2 sacrament programs
- Regular attendance at Faith Formation sessions
- Attendance at celebrations specific for the sacraments
- Attendance of parents at all meetings
- Attendance at all sacramental retreats

## **Christian Initiation of Children**

Children who have reached at least the age of reason (seven) who have not been baptized, or who have been baptized but have received no formation for completing the sacraments of initiation (Confirmation and Eucharist) participate in a program of Initiation for Children. If you have a child that fits into this category, please be in touch with the Parish.

## General Information

Registration takes place each fall. Forms are mailed to all students of the previous year. Forms for new students are available at the Parish Office. **Students must be registered before attending class.** A registration fee is asked of each student in grades K-8.

All students in our Faith Formation classes are expected to attend each class session, arriving on time and remaining through the entire program. Please plan to have your child(ren) **arrive no more than fifteen minutes** before the start of that program and have them report directly to the designated location. **Please do not leave your child unsupervised.** Children will be held in their classrooms until a parent arrives to pick them up. Please pick up your child no more than fifteen minutes after the ending time of the program.

If a group is to leave the parish grounds for an event, signed permission forms will be required and all guidelines for drivers will be followed as directed by the diocese.

If you know that your child is going to be absent from a class or must leave early, please contact either the catechist. It is the responsibility of the parent to see that their child receives any material that was used during the class.

If a child becomes sick during a class, the catechist or building monitor will call a parent to pick up the child as soon as possible.

Medication cannot be dispensed to a child without written permission and instructions from the parent and from the child's doctor. The medicine must be in the original container clearly labeled.

The fire directions for leaving the building are posted in the classrooms. When an alarm rings, children and youth must follow the directions given by their catechist. Students who may be in the bathrooms or other areas of the building should use the nearest exit to leave the building.

If for any reason Faith Formation classes or Youth Ministry activities on Sunday are canceled, parents will be contacted by telephone. Weekday class will be canceled only if school is canceled or dismissed early on that day.

Children and youth are advised not to bring anything of extreme value to programs or events. Electronic games, cell phones and other such devices should be left at home.

## Code of Behavior

An important goal of Christian formation is the development of the person. Discipline is necessary for that development. Students must respect themselves, each other and their leaders. Children and Youth involved in programs at Corpus Christi Parish will be held to the following expectations and code of behavior:

They will show self-control, courtesy and respect for themselves and others.

They will recognize that they are lifelong learners and will value the opportunities for spiritual growth.

We expect everyone to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner free of harassment based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, economic status or disability while in class and in church.

During programs children and youth may wear any appropriate casual attire. Young people are encouraged to wear their "Sunday best" at Masses and other special liturgical functions.

Corpus Christi Parish is fortunate to have excellent facilities and equipment. All members of the parish community should take pride in our properties and do their part to keep them looking good.

*Violations could result in removal from the program and suspension from any future programs until a meeting can be held with the child, parents/guardians, Parish Catechetical Leader, and Pastor. A course of action will be decided upon at that meeting.*