

FAITH FORMATION AT CORPUS CHRISTI

2023-2024

Welcome to Corpus Christi! By registering your child in our faith formation program, you are now parishioners and your family is part of the Corpus Christi community. Welcome!



Our Philosophy and Outlook

Parents, at your child's baptism, you agreed to be the primary teachers of the Catholic faith to your child. We are here to support and help you by providing a program of study and resources for you and your child. The faith formation program at Corpus Christi is more than just completing the activities in the duo-tang; it is about encountering Jesus, strengthening our relationship with Him, deepening our faith and growing in love for God and neighbour.

Our catechists are volunteers who have chosen to dedicate their time, energy and resources to helping your child grow in faith. Please support our catechists by bringing your child to class on time, providing snacks if requested, lending a helping hand during classes and special events such as our Children's Nativity play and our Corpus Christi Feast day. Thank you!

We firmly believe that practicing the faith at home and regular Mass attendance is essential for children to develop a strong faith and to connect what they learn in class and in their duo-tangs to their daily lives. Thus, regular Mass attendance with your child at Corpus Christi (or any Catholic church) is expected. This is a precept of the Catholic Church, a requirement of our faith:

*“On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.”
(Catechism of the Catholic Church 2180)*

Faith Formation

At Corpus Christi, our faith formation program starts in Level 1 when your child is entering Grade 1 at school. The program is continuous from Level 1 to Level 6 and includes preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

- **Catechesis:** Every child will receive a duo-tang to work on at home with his/her parents. A guide is provided for which lessons to complete each week. Additionally, your child must attend in-person classes and activities at the church which supplement and reinforce learning done at home. Your child must attend all scheduled classes - they are not optional. There are no make-up classes. Class times for Levels 3-6 include Mass. **Note that all classes are on weekends around Mass times (either 3 - 4:30 pm on Saturday or 11:15 am - 12:45 pm on Sunday). Class times for Level 1 are on Saturday 10 – 11:15 am.**
- **Book checks** are done about once a month. Your child attends Mass, then brings his/her duo-tang to our volunteers to check if it is up to date. Attendance at book checks is necessary so that your child can receive feedback on his/her lessons periodically and not fall too far behind. It also makes it easier for our catechists to check a few lessons at a time. If your child is absent for book check, please meet a catechist at the next weekend Mass so that your child's duo-tang can be checked.
- **Family Mass** (once a month): Children have the opportunity to sing in the children's choir, do one of the readings or bring up the gifts during the offertory.

Preparing for the Sacraments

- Preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion usually takes place the year after a child completes Level One. We also prepare older children to receive these Sacraments. Children asking to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion must have completed two consecutive years in the program, including sacrament preparation classes.
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation starts immediately after reception of First Holy Communion. This Sacrament is conferred in the Fall following successful completion of Level 6. Children presented for Confirmation must have completed a minimum of two consecutive years in the program, including sacrament preparation classes.
- We require a copy of your child's baptismal certificate to ensure church registers reflect the sacraments your child has received. Please ensure that a copy is given when you initially register your child.

Catholic Adult Faith Enrichment sessions (CAFES):

If your child is preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, one parent is required to attend **two** adult faith enrichment sessions (given at the same time their child is in class).

If your child is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, one adult (parent, grandparent or sponsor) is required to attend **all seven** adult faith enrichment sessions (given at the same time their child is in class).

For Levels 1, 3, 4 and 5: One parent (families welcome!) attends the last twenty minutes of **each** of their child's classes to learn how to pray the Rosary, participate in a prayerful re-enactment of parts of the Gospel and build family prayer life.

Program Requirements

- **Level One**
 - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, with parental help
 - Three classes
 - Movie activity (April)
 - Children's Way of the Cross (Lent) & Children's Rosary (May)
 - Attendance at Family Masses and book checks
- **Level Three**
 - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, with parental help
 - Three classes
 - Movie activity (April)
 - Sign up for altar serving at least once between October - December
 - Children's Way of the Cross (Lent) & Children's Rosary (May)
 - Attendance at Family Masses and book checks

- **Level Four**
 - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, using Bible & with parental involvement
 - Three classes
 - Movie activity (April)
 - One social outreach activity, done independently by family (guidelines will be provided)
 - One Coffee Sunday (with parent help, aid in setting up coffee, muffins, cookies, juice after Mass; serve as greeters before Mass; clean up after Coffee Sunday).
 - Sign up for altar serving at least once between October - December
 - Children's Way of the Cross (Lent) & Children's Rosary (May)
 - Attendance at Family Masses and book checks

- **Level Five**
 - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, using Bible & discussions with parent
 - Three classes
 - Lenten retreat (March)
 - Two social outreach activities, done independently by family (guidelines will be provided)
 - Two Coffee Sundays (with parent help, aid in setting up coffee, muffins, cookies, juice after Mass; serve as greeters before Mass; clean up after Coffee Sunday).
 - Sign up for altar serving at least once between October - December
 - Children's Way of the Cross (Lent) & Children's Rosary (May)
 - Attendance at Family Masses and book checks

- **Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion**
 - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly, with parental help
 - Six classes
 - Two workshops (parent presence required)
 - Movie activity (April)
 - Children's Way of the Cross (Lent) & Children's Rosary (May)
 - Attendance at Family Masses and book checks
 - First Reconciliation in February
 - First Holy Communion in May

- **Sacrament of Confirmation**
 - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, with parental discussions
 - Half-day retreat (September 2023)
 - Seven classes
 - Lenten retreat (March)
 - Children's Way of the Cross (Lent) & Children's Rosary (May)
 - Suitcases for Africa activity (January)
 - Holy Spirit Day at Cathedral in Montreal (date TBD)
 - Sign up for altar serving at least once between October - December
 - Social outreach activities (help with food drives, Christmas baskets, etc), other class projects as time and need arise
 - Half-day retreat (September 2024)
 - Attendance at Family Masses and book checks
 - Sacrament of Confirmation conferred in October 2024

***Regular weekend Mass attendance with your child (all Levels) at Corpus Christi
(or any Catholic church) is expected***

If your child is in First Communion or Confirmation preparation Levels, please attach a wallet-sized photo of your child to his/her registration form, for our prayer posters. Thank you.

Children in all Levels, especially 3 – 6, are invited to be of service to the parish community:

This is your parish! At any Mass, children can serve as altar servers, greeters or bring up the gifts during the offertory. Encourage your child to read at the Family Masses or be part of the Children's Choir. Taking an active role in the community will help your child feel at home in the parish and grow in his/her faith.

We are confident your child will have an enjoyable and fruitful year! We are grateful for your participation and support. Thank you for your prayers for us as we journey with your family during this catechetical year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or your catechist.

Thank you.

Blessings,
Evelyn Campbell and Carol Ruano
Parish Catechetical Leaders

514-457-3896/ccfaithfirst@gmail.com