

# *FAITH FORMATION AT CORPUS CHRISTI*

*2020-2021*

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**

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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.

We believe that practicing the faith at home and regular Mass attendance is essential for children to develop an active faith and to connect what they learn in class and in their duo-tangs to their daily lives.

*"The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life.""  
(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1324)*

## **Faith Formation**

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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.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all areas of our lives. The uncertainty of how the pandemic will change over the next eight months makes it impossible for us to provide definitive dates for classes and events. Some aspects of our program will stay the same and some will have to be modified. Our program this year will be an "evolving" program as we adapt to ongoing government regulations and restrictions, and directives from the diocese. We ask you to be flexible and understanding as we journey together, always keeping our focus on Jesus and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit.

- **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 - usually one lesson per week. We are aiming to have a few virtual classes, which will supplement and reinforce learning done through the duo-tang.
- **Book checks** will continue to be done, either virtually or in-person when permitted. Attendance at book checks is necessary so that your child can receive feedback on his/her lessons periodically and not fall too far behind.
- **Mass attendance:** The Mass is at the centre of our faith. Teaching your child the faith cannot be fruitful without regular Mass attendance. During this time of pandemic, you are encouraged to watch Mass online every Sunday. You are invited to attend Mass in person whenever your family feels comfortable to do so - our church is open for Mass and ready to welcome you!
- **Our goals for this year:** During this challenging time, we are here to continue to support parents in teaching the Catholic faith to their child(ren), to provide continuity in your child's faith formation and to help families discover (or re-discover) the importance of attending Mass regularly and praying together as a family everyday.

## Preparing for the Sacraments

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- Preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion usually take place in Level Two. We also prepare older children to receive these Sacraments. Children asking to receive these Sacraments must have completed two consecutive years in the program, including sacrament preparation classes. *However, due to the pandemic, it will not be possible to receive First Holy Communion in May 2021. Preparation will begin this year and continue into the 2021-2022 year.*
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation starts immediately after reception of First Holy Communion. This Sacrament is usually 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. *However, due to the pandemic, it will not be possible to adequately prepare children to receive this Sacrament in October 2021. Preparation will begin this year and continue into the 2021-2022 year.*
- 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.

## Program Outline (November 2020 – June 2021)

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- **Levels One & Three**
  - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, with parental help
  - Five virtual or in-person book checks
  - Possibility of two virtual classes
  - Ash Wednesday/Lent event for parent & child (February)
  - Holy Week/Good Friday event for parent & child (March)
  - Children's Rosary (May)
- **Level Four**
  - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, using Bible & with parental help
  - Five virtual or in-person book checks
  - Possibility of two virtual classes
  - One social outreach activity, done independently by family (guidelines will be provided)
  - Ash Wednesday/Lent event for parent & child (February)
  - Holy Week/Good Friday event for parent & child (March)
  - Children's Rosary (May)
- **Level Five**
  - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, using Bible & discussions with parent
  - Five virtual or in-person book checks
  - Possibility of two virtual classes
  - Two social outreach activities, done independently by family (guidelines will be provided)
  - Ash Wednesday/Lent event for parent & child (February)
  - Holy Week/Good Friday event for parent & child (March)
  - Children's Rosary (May)

- **Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion**
  - Duo-tang of lessons to be done weekly at home, with parental help
  - Five virtual or in-person book checks
  - Possibility of two virtual classes
  - If in-person classes are permitted in January through April, preparation for Sacrament of First Reconciliation will commence
  - Ash Wednesday/Lent event for parent & child (February)
  - Holy Week/Good Friday event for parent & child (March)
  - Children's Rosary (May)
  - ***Preparation for Sacrament of First Holy Communion will continue into 2021-2022***
  
- **Sacrament of Confirmation**
  - Workbook of lessons to be done weekly at home, with parental discussions
  - Five virtual or in-person book checks
  - Possibility of two virtual classes
  - Two social outreach activities, done independently by family (guidelines will be provided)
  - Additional preparation as situation permits (retreats, charity project, community involvement)
  - Ash Wednesday/Lent event for parent & child (February)
  - Holy Week/Good Friday event for parent & child (March)
  - Children's Rosary (May)
  - ***Preparation for Sacrament of Confirmation will continue into 2021-2022***

The pandemic has changed our lives in countless ways. However, one thing has not changed – God is still present with us, in our midst, in our families, in our everyday lives, and He still loves us.

*“The pandemic is an occasion for us to realize that we all need God” – Archbishop Christian Lépine*

We invite you to view this year as a time of transformation, a time to step back from the busyness of life and spend a little more time growing in your relationship with Jesus, with your family. Through our program, we are offering you tools to facilitate learning and discussions about our faith with your child, to engage your child through enjoyable, thought-provoking lessons and hands-on activities in his/her duo-tang, to help you cultivate daily prayer moments in your family and to foster a sense of belonging in a caring, faith community.

Thank you for your participation, support and flexibility as we journey together this year.

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

Thank you.

Blessings,  
 Evelyn Campbell and Carol Ruano  
 Parish Catechetical Leaders

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