



**Christian Formation Handbook**  
**St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**  
**Brusly, LA**

## THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MISSION STATEMENT

Jesus Christ is the center of our life together at St. John the Baptist Parish. We accept our threefold mission which includes **deepening** the incarnation of the living Christ within us, **celebrating our call to discipleship** as His church community and, **sharing** His presence by the way we serve one another. We shall pursue this mission faithfully through the **power** of the Holy Spirit and the **gifts** and **talents** of our members.

### ***DEFINING OUR GOALS:***

1. **Resources modeled on the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These four pillars are *belief, worship, morality, and prayer.***

A. Resources used in grades K-11 are in conformity with the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catechism of the Catholic Church and The General Directory for Catechesis.

Grade K	<u>Image of God</u> Ignatius Press
Grades 1-7:	<u>Faith and Life Series</u> Ignatius Press
Grade 8:	<u>Fireside Catholic Youth Bible –</u> Fireside Press
Grades 9:	<u>You-Life, Love and Theology of the Body</u> High School Ascension Press
Grade 10:	<u>Decision Point</u> Dynamic Catholic
Grade 11:	<u>Total Catechesis</u> St. Mary's Press
Grade 2:	<u>God's Gift Reconciliation and Eucharist –</u> Sacramental Prep. Loyola Press

2. **To deepen our understanding of the faith relationship between family, parish community, and catechetical ministry.**

A. Parish, family, and catechist make up the indispensable “we” that constitutes the community of faith. Our program at St. John the Baptist will work at strengthening the partnership of home, parish community, and catechesis. For it is in the whole parish where the life of faith is nurtured.

We then as the people of God come to a deeper awareness of our catechetical ministry as grace. It has often been said and now bears repeating that faith is caught *and* taught. Faith is caught, or deeply experienced, wherever and whenever family members are in harmony with one another and with God. Faith is caught in the word and work of the believing parish. The ordered unfolding of belief, worship, morality, and prayer occurs in catechesis. Here that very faith, which as been caught at home and in the parish, is taught. And so it is that the faith community “constitutes itself as the living and permanent environment for growth in the faith” (*General Directory for Catechesis, #158*).

3. **To celebrate Eucharist together as it is the center and source of parish life and worship.**

A. Liturgical catechesis, prepares for the sacraments by promoting a deeper understanding and experience of the liturgy. This explains the contents of the prayers, the meaning of the signs and gestures, educates to active participation, contemplation and silence. (GDC, #71)

B. Families attend Sunday liturgy and Holy Days of Obligation together. Adults demonstrate and set the example for manners; they teach citizenship; they carry on and honor family, civic, and religious traditions. Families need the support of the faith community to help them teach children how Catholics gather, proclaim the Word, celebrate, and serve.

C. Sunday scripture readings play a vital part in weekly catechesis.

**4. To integrate catechesis and the parish's ministry of service.**

- A. Identify liturgical ministries open to young people, such as hospitality, music, altar servers. etc.
- B. Use an apprenticeship, partnering, or mentoring model to gradually introduce the children to the parish's ministry in effective, age-appropriate ways that capitalize on the children's skills and interests.
- C. Embrace the gospel message by calling all children and youth to Christian service within the parish community and in the community at large. This will be done at age appropriate levels.

**5. To effectively integrate social justice issues into the overall catechetical message.**

- A. To help the children expand their caring in a natural way from self to family and friends, to parish and local community, to the world, and, ultimately, to all creation.
- B. Outline the major components of the Church's social teachings.
  - *The call to foster the dignity and right to life of every human person*
  - *The call to foster healthy families and to participate in the life of the community*
  - *The call to foster both the moral rights and the responsibilities of every human person*
  - *The call to respond in a special way to the needs of the poor and the vulnerable*
  - *The call to uphold the dignity of work and to defend the rights of workers*
  - *The call to strive to live in solidarity with all people on earth regardless of race, gender, or creed*
  - *The call to be good stewards of God's creation*
- C. Possibly having community days within the catechetical program to address social issues.

**6. To be a Christ centered people led by the Holy Spirit and nourished by God through an active prayer life.**

- A. Types and models of prayer
- B. Four Masses celebrated with K-8 each year of Christian Formation led by youth in each grade
- C. Teaching Masses with Fr. Matt are scheduled for certain grades.
- D. Sacrament of First Reconciliation  
Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrated in grades 5 -8 during Christian Formation Classes; 9 -11 during Christian Formation Classes  
Sacrament of Reconciliation celebrated for the parish community at the parish  
Penance services in Advent and Lent  
Sacrament of First Eucharist  
Sacrament of Confirmation
- E. Children and youth gather together to pray as community each session.
- F. Encourage families to pray together.

**St. John the Baptist Mass Schedule**  
**Saturday, Vigil 4:30 PM**  
**Sunday, 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM**  
**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00 AM**  
**Friday 8:00 AM, with Adoration until 11:30 AM**  
**First Saturday of the month only 8:00 AM**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

1. We expect children and youth to be respectful to the adults present as well as their peers. Appropriate behavior should be used at all times. **Practice the three “R’s”: reverence, respect, responsibility.**
2. Once registered, youth are expected to attend all sessions. 80% attendance is the minimum requirement. Attendance is necessary for sacramental preparation and celebration.
3. Children should arrive for **Christian Formation no more than 15 minutes** before their session and leave at their proper dismissal time. **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MUST REPORT TO THE ACTIVITY CENTER WHEN THEY ARRIVE.** No one is to leave the church property before or during a session without permission from the Director. This is for the safety of your child. Elementary and Jr. High youth reporting in late should check in at the office before going to their classroom. High School youth are required to sign in at their classroom. If a child has to leave a session early they must have written permission from a parent. The Christian Formation office will make a copy for the catechist and keep a copy on file
4. All youth are expected to dress in an appropriate manner. This means clothes that respect the holiness of the individual as well as our place of worship. No caps; tight, short or low cut blouses; short shorts; pants with advertising on the backside, are to be worn to formation, in the classroom or the church. If hip-hugger pants are worn make sure the blouse or shirt is long enough to cover the stomach.
5. The use of gum, tobacco, drugs or alcohol is prohibited on church premises.
6. **No electronic or battery operated communication equipment or games, such as ipads, portable video games, pagers, cell phones, etc. are allowed. If one is brought to class it will be placed in a basket and returned at the end of class. If used at any time during class or mass the device will be taken from the youth. In order to have the device returned an appointment with Mrs. June will have to be made.**
7. All are expected to abide by the guidelines of the program and by the directives of the adult catechists and helpers. If there is a disruption, the young person will be sent to the office to speak to the Director. Parents will be called when necessary.
8. Be involved in the catechesis process of your child. Check your child’s schedule for special times and dates when parents are invited to participate. You are also welcome to come by anytime to share a regular lesson with us!
9. Take time to get to know your child’s catechist. He/she would be happy to share your child’s faith experiences with you. Address and telephone number of your child’s catechist is available upon request.

## Christian Formation Policies

### Attendance

**GRADES 1 – 11** - A student who does not meet the 80% attendance will have makeup work to complete to move forward to the next grade level. If the makeup work is not complete the youth will have to repeat the grade level.

- Children can be dropped 15 minutes before class time. **THEY MUST REPORT TO THE ACTIVITY CENTER.**
- There will be NO CATECHIST on duty to receive students until 15 minutes (5:00) for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades and (5:15) for K -4<sup>th</sup> grades before class. If **YOU** arrive early, it will be **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to stay with your child. **YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO STAY AND JOIN US FOR MUSIC AND PRAYER.**
- We continue to try and make this a win-win for all involved. Working together, supporting each other as a team is key to the success of the program.

### DISCIPLINE

#### GRADES K -11

- One warning will be given by the catechist.
- Second disruption the student is sent to the office. The student may return to class depending on the offense or the attitude of the student. Parents of students who are asked to leave class for discipline reasons should expect a phone call from the DRE.
- **IF A CELL PHONE IS BROUGHT TO CLASS IT WILL BE PLACED IN A BASKET DURING CLASS AND STUDENTS WILL PICK UP AFTER CLASS.**
- Parents will be called for a serious offense or habitual disruptions. Parents may be asked to attend class with their youth.

**TEACHING TIME IS VALUABLE AND LIMITED, THEREFORE,  
YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL**

## **TRAFFIC: Dropping off and Picking up students**

### **GRADES K-8TH**

**DROP OFF:** K- 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING CHILDREN TO THE ACTIVITY CENTER EACH WEEK. 5<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE PARKING LOT EACH WEEK.

Class lists will be posted on the wall of the Christian Formation building to assist you in locating your child's classroom during the month of August.

The area beyond St. Francis Hall is reserved for our Christian Formation campus and is therefore restricted for the children's safety.

Parents should enter the north side of the parking lot and circle to drop their child off near the church plaza.

**PICKUP:** For the safety of your children K – 4<sup>th</sup> please walk to your child/children's classroom for pick up each week. 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> can be picked up in the parking lot.

If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up the child, that person must be listed on your child's registration card. If that person is not listed on the card, we will contact the parent/guardian for verbal permission.

K-4<sup>th</sup> Grades are dismissed at 6:30 PM

5-6<sup>th</sup> Grades are dismissed at 6:30 PM

7-8<sup>th</sup> Grades are dismissed at 8:15 PM

9-10<sup>th</sup> Grades are dismissed at 8:30 PM

Parents are asked to respect dismissal times and arrive promptly to pick up children

### **RAINY DAY SCHEDULES FOR K THRU 8TH GRADES**

Drive to the back and drop your child off near to their classroom. Do the same for when picking up your child. Please follow instructions of adult volunteers.

### **HIGH SCHOOL - GRADES 9-11**

Parents must closely supervise teens that drive to Christian Formation. Responsible, safe driving must be practiced at all times when on St. John the Baptist Parish Church grounds. (NO TEXTING AND DRIVING PLEASE)

# St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Very Rev. Matthew P. Lorrain, Pastor

## Grades K— 11th

I HAVE READ AND REVIEWED WITH MY PARENTS THE POLICIES FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHRISTIAN FORMATION. PARENT ONLY SIGNS FOR K-3 GRADE, BUT PLEASE WRITE CHILD'S NAME ON STUDENT LINE. STUDENT AND PARENT SIGN FOR 4TH – 11TH GRADES. WE UNDERSTAND THEM AND WILL ADHERE TO THEM.

GRADE:    \_\_\_ K    \_\_\_ 1st    \_\_\_ 2nd    \_\_\_ 3rd    \_\_\_ 4th    \_\_\_ 5th  
              \_\_\_ 6th    \_\_\_ 7th    \_\_\_ 8th    \_\_\_ 9th    \_\_\_ 10th    \_\_\_ 11th

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



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