

Faith Formation Mission Statement

“The Faith Formation team, as part of the community of believers will try to bring scripture to life through our living example, by learning, sharing and acting out our Catholic faith. In our ministry to our brothers and sisters of all ages we will nurture one another on our faith journey while deepening our understanding of our Catholic beliefs and traditions.

The fundamental task of catechesis is to form disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus instructed his disciples, prayed with them, showed them how to live and gave them his mission. Our Catholic faith must be known, celebrated, lived and expressed in prayer and works. All Faith Formation programs follow and adhere to the teachings of the Church, and the doctrines of the Catechisms of the Catholic Church. The team of catechists under the direction of the Director of Religious Education have been guided in spirit and instructed on church doctrine, to assist each child in achieving his or her maximum potential in mind, body, and spirit within a Catholic environment.

Six primary tasks for Catechesis:

Knowledge ~Promote the knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Worship ~Promote knowledge of the meaning of the Liturgy and Sacraments.

Moral Life ~Promote moral formation in Jesus Christ.

Prayer ~Teach the Catholic how to pray with Christ.

Community Life ~Prepare the Catholic to live in community and to participate actively in the life mission of the Catholic Church through the parish and diocese.

Service~ To promote a missionary spirit that prepares the faithful to be present as Christians in society.

GDC, NDC

What does a Catechesis look like?

“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but also in communion and intimacy with Jesus Christ”

GDC, 80

Volunteering in the Faith Formation programs at St Luke Church is a role that will impact your life, and the lives of the children. Always respect this as a special grace and gift given to you and the church.

Mentors:

- Mentors hold a vital role in the ongoing development of the children in our programs, as they act as role models for the youth of our parish. Their experience in these sessions will encourage the formation of the teen helper.
- The Director of Religious Education will review expectations, discuss with the volunteer candidate their placement in an appropriate age grade level.
- The Mentor will dutifully and respectfully be under the direction of the Director of Religious Education, Ellisa Hayes, Middle School/Confirmation Coordinator, Diane Yarborough and Faith Formation Assistant, Kristine Makhne and the classroom Catechists.
- All mentors are to follow the Diocese of Charlotte Guidelines on Protecting God's Children; these guidelines will be explained to the mentor. Although they are not required to attend a session on PGC, the basics of such will be discussed with all volunteers.
- In respect of the children's personal space we practice a hands off policy which refrains from carrying children, holding children or physical contact that may be considered an invasion of said child's space.
- Maintains consistent attendance and notify the Catechist when you will be out. Remember the success of the program will depend on your presence, it is expected that you will make this commitment a priority over other events.
- All Mentors are expected to keep children's personal information private, at no times are you to discuss with others a child's progress or divulge information that is of a family matter.

What the Mentor does:

- Respectfully takes direction from and follows through with said directives given by Catechist.
- Helps arrange furniture and material in the meeting space per the Catechists guidelines and assistance.
- Is able to focus and enjoy work while maintaining active awareness of children.
- Welcomes children into the room after the Catechist has greeted the family at the door.
- Assists with the parent volunteer in preparation of snack set up.
- Assists children during snack time and helps in the clean up of snack.
- For clarity sometimes ask for more direction and suggestions from the Catechist.
- Joins in circle and sits with children, assists child if necessary to get involved in the circle.
- Responds to the Catechist's invitation to share experiences.
- Is present to and for Catechists and children without becoming overbearing.
- Is attentive to God's word.
- Receives the message from Catechist graciously.
- Shares in song or gestures of expression.
- Helps clean room, and rearrange shared space.

- Discusses with the Catechist specific needs or directions for the week to come.