

# Registration Information for K-8 Faith Formation Programs—2022-23

The Catholic Community of Northbrook hopes to be a source of Christ's love, strength, comfort and joy for your families. We welcome you back to another full schedule of in person instruction for your children. We will offer at-home options for families who request them.

You will be able to select your class choices for each of your children. Please refer to <https://www.northbrookcatholic.church/faith-formationre.html> for the link to online registration.

## Important Dates to Remember

- Late June – K-8 Faith Formation registration opens.
- August 15 – Last day for returning families to register for classes to avoid \$100 late fee.
- End of August – Invoices will be sent to families with payment options.
- September 30 – Tuition is due.
- Sunday, September 11 – Parent and Student meeting for Confirmation (8<sup>th</sup> graders only)
- Week of September 18 – K-6 and Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades) programming begins.
- Other key dates are found in the program description section.

## Tuition for 2022-23

We are restructuring our fees (outlined below) to help offset rising costs. These fees are midpoint with other parishes in the Northern suburbs. We appreciate your understanding of the new fee structure. As in years past, the parish will still be subsidizing a large percentage of our Faith Formation costs.

One child	\$400
Two or more children	\$600
Sacramental fee for First Communion and Confirmation (2 <sup>nd</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grades). <i>Parents with multiple children in these grades only have to pay the fee for one child.</i>	\$75
Late fee per family (register by Aug 15 to avoid)	\$100

As always, we want to make our programming accessible for all families. For those who are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact Karen Spooner, Finance and Operations Director, at [karen@northbrookcatholic.church](mailto:karen@northbrookcatholic.church). She will work out a tuition plan that is manageable for your family.

Current families are required to register by **Sunday, August 15**, but **tuition payment will not be due until September 30**. Families will receive an invoice with payment options. This invoice will come from the parish business operations.

Current families who do not register by **August 15** will incur a **\$100 late registration fee**. We need to know how many students will be in our program, so we can recruit catechists and order supplies. August 15<sup>th</sup> is a strict deadline.

## Volunteering

We understand a tuition increase might be a challenge for some families, so we are **increasing the benefits** for our **volunteer catechists** and **small group facilitators**, as well as creating more **volunteer positions that receive a tuition discount**.

Volunteers are vital to our K-8 programming. We cannot do this program without the time and talents of our parents and other parishioners. Our biggest needs are catechists in our K-6 program and for small group facilitators in our 7th and 8th grade Confirmation program. Catechists and small group facilitators get to learn about the Catholic faith right along with the kids, so there is no need to be afraid of these opportunities. Training is also provided.

<b>Volunteer position</b>	<b>Discount</b>
Catechist (Teaches in the K-6 program)	\$400 (\$100 discount in past years)
Catechist who team teaches (splits the class sessions with another volunteer)	\$200
Class assistant (Serves as a helper to the catechist in the K-6 classrooms.)	\$100
Small group facilitator (7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade program)	\$100 (\$50 discount in past years)
Hall & parking lot monitors for K-6	\$50 for working 8 sessions

## Volunteer Descriptions

### **K-6 Catechist**

Catechists help bring our Catholic faith to life for our children. They do this with their presence, helpful natures, and fun and curious ways to engage the students. Catechists get to learn about their Catholic faith right along with the kids, so there is no need to be afraid of this opportunity. They follow a curriculum for planning lessons and then share the lesson with the children on either Sunday morning (10:45-12noon) or Tuesday evening (4:30-5:45 *or* 6:15-7:30), two to three times a month. Classes meet in St. Norbert School and run 1 hour and 15 minutes. Catechists receive **\$400 reduction in tuition (\$100 reduction in past years)** for their work and preparation **or \$100 cash gift** (for those without children in program). Specific training on how to use the Gospel Weeklies curriculum from the publisher is provided. Catechists will also meet regularly via Zoom with other catechists for support and to discuss best practices. The online Virtus/Protecting God's Children and Mandated Reporter trainings and background check are required.

Volunteers who wish to **team teach** (splitting the time in the classroom) will receive **\$200 reduction in tuition or \$50 cash gift** (for those without children in program).

### **Assistant to the Catechist**

This position helps the catechists in the classrooms but does **not** have the responsibility of planning and presenting the lessons. Although anyone can volunteer in this capacity, this is an excellent opportunity for 8th graders who like working with kids and who need Confirmation Service Hours. Assistants receive **\$100 reduction in tuition or a \$50 cash gift** (for those without children in program). 8th graders who volunteer in this capacity can only earn volunteer service hours. The online Virtus/Protecting God's Children and Mandated Reporter trainings and background check are required for adults. Students, age 18 years of age or younger, who volunteer are exempt from the Virtus requirements.

### **Called Small Group Facilitators (Confirmation formerly named Edge)**

Called facilitators are assigned a group of 7th or 8th grade students. They listen and participate in the main lessons that are presented by our Called leaders, and then they meet with their small groups of students (about 10) to discuss what the lesson is about. Facilitators do NOT plan or present the lesson-- just lead a small group discussion and activities, which are already prepared for them. Called facilitators learn about our Catholic faith right along with the students. They just need an appreciation and love of our faith, a patience for working with middle school students, and a willingness to engage a group of young people in learning and discussing our faith. Called meets on Sunday evenings twice a month. Training is provided. Called facilitators receive **\$100 reduction in tuition (\$50 discount in past years)** for their work **or \$50 cash gift** (for those without children in program). The online Virtus/Protecting God's Children and Mandated Reporter trainings and background check are required.

### **Techy Team Members** (K-6 program on Sunday mornings/Tuesday evenings)

Assist the Director or person in-charge in setting up the computers in the classrooms prior to the start of K-6 classes and help catechists with technology issues during class times. This is a perfect opportunity for 8th graders or high school students with strong skills in technology who need service hours.

### **Hall and Parking Lot monitors** (K-6 program on Sunday mornings/Tuesday evenings)

These volunteers are an adult presence in Grace Hall during the K-6 faith formation classes. They monitor the hallways, pick-up attendance sheets, contact the Director or person in charge if any issues arise, and monitor the parking lot when classes get out. These volunteers arrive 5-10 minutes before classes begin and stay until the children are picked-up by their parents. New this year--we will **offer a \$50 tuition discount** to those committed to working 8 Faith Formation sessions throughout the year. The online Virtus/Protecting God's Children and Mandated Reporter trainings and background check are also required for this role.

### **Called Dinner and Parking Lot Volunteers**

Volunteers help with setting up and serving the pizza dinner and with light cleaning afterwards once or twice during the academic year. They also serve as parking lot monitors when the program is over. Volunteers arrive at 6 p.m. on Called Nights (Sundays) to help with meal set-up and then stay through the evening until the students are picked up, which is about 7:45-8 p.m.

## Faith Formation Program Descriptions

### **K-6 program**

Our K-6<sup>th</sup> grade program uses the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies curriculum that combines a complete catechesis of our Catholic faith with the liturgical life of the Church. The content of the program flows from each Sunday's Gospel and students learn their faith within the rhythms and seasons of the liturgical year. Every lesson goes home to involve parents (who hear the same Gospel on Sunday) making it easier for you to discuss topics with your children.

Classes are held two to three times per month on Sunday mornings after the 9:30 Mass (10:45 a.m. – 12 noon) and on Tuesday evenings (4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.). We try to avoid scheduling classes over school breaks and long weekends. We follow District #28 school schedule.

### **Called Confirmation Program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades (formerly named Edge)**

Called, our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation program, takes the students out of the classroom and brings them together for a youth group style experience. They meet in one large group for the primary lesson and prayer experience and also in small groups to discuss and make sense of what they learned about our Catholic faith. We primarily use the Pflaum *Gifted in the Spirit* curriculum, and will include some materials from Lifeteen's *Edge* and *Purpose* programs. (Since we are no longer solely using Edge materials, we have changed the name to *Called*, emphasizing that Jesus *calls us all* to be his disciples.)

Our Called Confirmation Program is designed to help our students...

- Realize they are beloved children of God with distinct gifts to serve others;
- Think critically about their faith and how to integrate it into their daily lives;
- Consider Jesus' invitation to accept his love and become his disciples.

The sessions begin after the Sunday 5 p.m. Mass with pizza at 6 p.m. and end with prayer about 7:45 p.m. The programming takes place in the church basement, as well as the church.

Students are expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass with their families. One easy option is to attend the 5 p.m. Mass on Sundays and the students can head directly to the Church Hall (lower level) at 6 p.m. for the start of the program.

The Parent-Student meeting for Confirmation (**8<sup>th</sup> graders only**) is **Sunday, September 11 at 6 p.m.** in the Church. Student responsibilities and important dates will be outlined during this meeting.

Currently we have no Confirmation date set for this year's incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. Normally it happens at the end of April. We will inform you as soon as we know.

Confirmation is a two year program. In order to be confirmed in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, a student must have been enrolled in a Catholic Faith Formation program or a Catholic school in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. If your child missed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade instruction last year, we will enroll them in the online Chosen program and give specific chapters your child must do in order to be eligible for Confirmation in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Contact JoEllen at [joellen@northbrookcatholic.church](mailto:joellen@northbrookcatholic.church) for more information.

## **Second Grade First Communion and First Reconciliation**

The preparation for First Communion and First Reconciliation is an exciting time for your children. They will finally get to *sit at the Big table* and receive the Eucharist along with the members of their family and friends. During the academic year they will learn about the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and how Jesus nourishes us in the sacrament. Likewise, they will learn about their responsibility of keeping their hearts open to the love of Jesus and how the sacrament of Reconciliation helps that. We will use a combination of resources for the sacramental preparation: *Blest Are We* text book and *Blessed First Reconciliation & First Communion* videos.

Traditionally, these sacraments are received during a child's second grade year. For those students who missed preparation due to Covid restrictions or other reasons, we will work with you to help your children catch-up with these sacraments. Parents should email JoEllen at [joellen@northbrookcatholic.church](mailto:joellen@northbrookcatholic.church) to arrange a discussion about the options.

Parents and other members of your family play an important role in helping form and prepare your children for these sacraments. It is important that you attend Sunday Mass as a family and to pray with your children every day. *An active prayer and faith life is a practice—it requires our movement, action and repetition to notice the benefits.*

A simple way to teach your kids some of our common Catholic prayers and begin a practice of praying with your children is to pray at bedtime. Download the common Catholic prayers to get started.

Important dates:

- Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m.: Belonging Ceremony for parents and child. Other family members are also welcome to attend.
- Sunday, October 23 at 10:45 a.m.: Parent (only) Meeting on Reconciliation (Mandatory for at least one parent)
- Saturdays, January 21 and 28 at 1:30 p.m.: First Reconciliation (Families will be able to select day in December.)
- Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. Parent (only) Meeting on the Eucharist (Mandatory for at least one parent)
- Saturdays, May 6 and 13: First Communion Masses (Families will be able to select times/days in mid-year.)

## **Flocknote Messaging Service**

We use Flocknote for all of our Faith Formation communications to parents. Parents of all registered families will be entered into the Flocknote system automatically. You will receive an email to verify your participation.

The Faith Formation Office regularly sends at least one email through Flocknote to all of our families on a weekly basis during the academic year. Email providers work hard to eliminate junk mail from accounts, and sometimes these Flocknote messages get sent to junk files or bounced. If you are not receiving these emails, you should do the following:

1. Check your spam/junk/clutter folders. Sometimes the emails will be automatically directed there. If you do find Flocknote messages in your spam/junk folder, please move them to your inbox. This will help inform your provider that these are legitimate messages.
2. Add [mail@flocknote.com](mailto:mail@flocknote.com) to your Contacts. All of our communications will come through Flocknote and have a Flocknote email address—not our church email address. Adding the [mail@flocknote.com](mailto:mail@flocknote.com) will help your email provider to identify the Flocknote email as a legitimate message.
3. If you still do not receive our weekly messages, you need to contact our office and let us know as soon as possible. We do not want you to miss important communications.

If you ever “unsubscribe” to our Flocknote communications, you will need to provide another email address in order to receive our communications. Email messaging services like Flocknote will not be able to send to addresses that were unsubscribed.

## **Study at Home Programs**

Study at home programs are available for families whose schedules do not permit regular class attendance. Approval for registration into such programs is required. Parents who are interested in pursuing this option should email JoEllen at [joellen@northbrookcatholic.church](mailto:joellen@northbrookcatholic.church) to arrange a time for a conversation. The price for study-at-home programming is the same price for in-person classes.

## **Programming Dates**

### **Faith Formation 2022-23 Dates of K-6 Programming**

*If you also have children in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Called Confirmation program, please know that the class schedules do not perfectly line up. During some months, K-6 meets 3 times. The confirmation program meets twice a month.*

- Classes: Sunday, Sept 18 and Tuesday, Sept 20
- Classes: Sunday, Sept 25 and Tuesday, Sept 27
- Classes: Sunday, Oct 2 and Tuesday, Oct 4
- **Parent Religious Ed\*** (Parent/Adult Faith Formation opportunity with OLPH & St. Catherine Laboure): Wednesday, Oct 5 from 7-8:30 at OLPH
- Classes: Sunday, Oct 9 and Tuesday, Oct 11 (No classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- Classes: Sunday, Oct 23 and Tuesday, Oct 25
- **Parent Religious Ed\*** (Parent/Adult Faith Formation opportunity with OLPH & St. Catherine Laboure): Wednesday, Nov 2 from 7-8:30 at St. Catherine Laboure
- Classes: Sunday, Nov 6 and Tuesday, Nov 8
- Classes: Sunday, Nov 13 and Tuesday, Nov 15
- Classes: Sunday, Dec 4 and Tuesday, Dec 6
- **Parent Religious Ed\*** (Parent/Adult Faith Formation opportunity with OLPH & St. Catherine Laboure): Wednesday, Dec 7 from 7-8:30 at St. Norbert Church
- **Faith & Family Night: Tuesday, December 13 (Christmas Pageant)**

- Classes: Sunday, Jan 8 and Tuesday, Jan 10
- Classes: Sunday, Jan 22 and Tuesday, Jan 24
- Classes: Sunday, Jan 29 and Tuesday, Jan 31
- **Parent Religious Ed\*** (Parent/Adult Faith Formation opportunity with OLPH & St. Catherine Laboure): Wednesday, Feb 1 from 7-8:30 at St. Norbert Church
- Classes: Sunday, Feb 5 and Tuesday, Feb 7
- Classes: Sunday, Feb 12 (Super Bowl) and Tuesday, Feb 14
- **Ash Wednesday, February 22**
- Classes: Sunday, Feb 26 and Tuesday, Feb 28
- **Parent Religious Ed\*** (Parent/Adult Faith Formation opportunity with OLPH & St. Catherine Laboure): Wednesday, Mar 1 from 7-8:30 at OLPH
- Classes: Sunday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 7
- Classes: Sunday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 21
- Spring Break from March 25-April 2
- **Easter—April 9**
- **Parent Religious Ed\*** (Parent/Adult Faith Formation opportunity with OLPH & St. Catherine Laboure): Wednesday, April 12 from 7-8:30 at St. Catherine Laboure
- Last Classes for Year: Sunday, Apr 16 and Tuesday, April 18
- **Faith & Family Night: Tuesday, May 16 (Pizza party)**

### **Second Grade Programming Dates—Preparation for First Communion & Reconciliation**

- Belonging Ceremony: Tuesday, Oct 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Church
- Parent (only) Meeting on the Significance of Reconciliation—Sunday, Oct 23 from 10:45-12 noon in the Church Hall (basement)
- First Reconciliations—Saturdays, Jan 21 and 28 from 1:30-3 p.m. at St. Norbert Church
- Parent (only) Meeting on the Significance of the Eucharist—Tuesday, March 7 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Church Hall (basement)
- First Communion Masses—Saturdays, May 6 and 13 at St. Norbert Church

*\*New this year is a collaborative effort among OLPH, St. Catherine Laboure and St. Norbert/OLB. Parent RE nights are opportunities for parents to gather to learn about our Catholic faith and meet other parents from the three parishes. Light refreshments will be served.*

### **Called Confirmation Session Dates (For 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

*If you also have children in the K-6 Faith Formation program, please know that the class schedules do not perfectly line up. During some months, K-6 meets 3 times. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Called Confirmation program meets twice a month during the academic year.*

- Sunday, September 11: 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent-student meeting
- Sunday, September 18: First Called Confirmation Session
- Sunday, September 25: Called Confirmation Session
- Sunday, October 9: Called Confirmation Session
- Sunday, October 23: Called Confirmation Session
- Sunday, November 6: Called Confirmation Session
- Sunday, November 13: Called Confirmation Session

- Sunday, December 4: Called Confirmation Session
- Friday, December 9: 8<sup>th</sup> grade evening retreat with NET Ministries
- Sunday, January 8: Called Confirmation Session
- Sunday, January 22: Called Confirmation Session
- January: Saint Fair for 8<sup>th</sup> graders during K-6 Faith Formation classes: Jan 22, 24, 29, 31
- Wed, February 1: Pastor's letter due (8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Sunday, February 5: Called Confirmation Session
- February: Interviews for 8<sup>th</sup> graders: February 13, 14 and 15 from 4-6 p.m.
- Sunday, February 26: Called Confirmation Session
- Sunday, March 5: Called Confirmation Session
- Sunday, March 19: Called Confirmation Session
- March: Confession for 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Saturdays, March 4, 11 and 18 from 1-2 p.m.
- Monday, April 3: 8<sup>th</sup> grade service reports/hours due
- Sunday, April 16: Called Confirmation Session
- April: Confirmation Date TBD—waiting on date from the bishops. A practice will be on a Wednesday prior to the Confirmation Mass.