

RELIGIOUS FORMATION 2026-2027

GRADE FIVE: We Learn From Jesus

Welcome to the new parish faith formation program for young people.

WELCOME TO GRADE FIVE

Fifth grade is a year for children to look more deeply at the teachings of Jesus. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus used stories, questions, and familiar images to help people understand God, themselves, and how they were called to live. This year, we'll explore some of those teachings and ask an important question: **What is Jesus trying to teach me?**

LEARNING THROUGH THE PARABLES

Some of Jesus' most memorable teachings are found in His parables. He spoke about seeds and soil, parents and children, shepherds and sheep, workers, neighbors, and ordinary things people encountered every day. But Jesus didn't tell these stories simply to entertain people. He told them to make people think. His parables invite us to look at our own lives and discover something about ourselves, about God, and about the choices we make.

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Understanding a parable isn't simply knowing what the story means. Jesus invites us to find ourselves in the story. What kind of soil am I? Do my actions match my words? What am I doing with the gifts God has given me? Do I recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd? Sometimes we will like the answers to those questions, and sometimes we won't. That's why we'll also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and remember that God's mercy always gives us the opportunity to begin again.

YOUR ROLE AT HOME

Parents remain the most important teachers of faith in a child's life. As your child becomes more capable of thinking about faith for themselves, encourage questions and conversation. After Mass, ask what they heard in the Gospel, what they think Jesus meant, and what His teaching might mean for their own life. You don't need to have every answer. Sometimes the most important thing you can do is ask the question and explore the answer together. Throughout the year, we'll also provide materials to use at home to introduce your child to other parables including the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and the Lost Sheep.



GRADE FIVE FORMATION GUIDE

August 29/30 & September 5/6

Please be sure to pick up your family's Formation Kit in the church hall after any Mass. The kit includes your XP tokens, *Faith at Home Guide*, and *Faith in Action Guide* for the upcoming formation year. Staff will be available to answer questions and help you get started.

September 20 | 10:30 a.m. Mass

The Sower: Making room for God's Word to grow.

September 27 | 10:30 a.m. Mass

The Two Sons: Following Jesus through our actions, not just our words.

November 15 | 9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

The Parable of the Talents: Using the gifts God has given us. Students will prepare to serve at the 10:30 a.m. **Ministry Mass**.

February 27 | 2:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Students will learn the parable of the Unforgiving Servant, discovering our need to forgive and be forgiven. After celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation, they will prepare for a **Ministry Mass** at 5:00 p.m.

April 17 | 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

The Good Shepherd: Learning to recognize and follow Jesus' voice. Students will prepare to serve at the 5:00 p.m. **Ministry Mass**.

