

RELIGIOUS FORMATION 2026-2027

GRADE THREE: We Follow Jesus

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

WELCOME TO GRADE THREE

Third grade is a year for children to discover what it looks like to follow Jesus. As Catholics, we believe that one of the best ways we learn is by looking at people who have already done it. The saints show us that there is no single way to follow Jesus. They lived in different times and places, had different personalities and gifts, and faced different challenges. What they shared was a desire to love Jesus and live as He taught.

MEETING THE SAINTS

Throughout the year, we will meet some of the saints through the celebration of Mass. Sometimes we will encounter them in the Gospel. Sometimes we will celebrate their feast day. And sometimes the readings will introduce us to people whose lives show us something important about discipleship. We will ask a simple question: **What does this person teach us about following Jesus?**

FOLLOWING JESUS TODAY

The saints aren't simply people from the past whose stories we remember. They show us what following Jesus can look like in our own lives. Some followed Jesus through courage. Others through kindness, generosity, forgiveness, prayer, sacrifice, or service. Their examples help children begin to recognize that Jesus calls each of us to follow Him in our own way.

YOUR ROLE AT HOME

Parents remain the most important teachers of faith in a child's life. Bring your child to Mass and talk together about the people you encounter in Scripture and the saints we celebrate. Ask what your child notices about them: What did they believe? What did they do? What made following Jesus difficult? What can we learn from them? Throughout the year, we'll also provide materials you can use at home to introduce your child to other saints and discover what their lives can teach us about following Jesus.

These saints will include: St. Nicholas, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Saint Teresa of Calcutta.



GRADE THREE 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.

October 4 | 10:30 a.m. Mass

St. Francis of Assisi: Following Jesus with joy and simplicity.

November 1 | 10:30 a.m. Mass

All Saints: Everyone is called to become a saint. **Faith Boost** immediately following Mass in the upstairs loft (10 – 15 minutes)

December 6 | 10:30 a.m. Mass

St. John the Baptist: Preparing the way for Jesus.

December 20 | 10:30 a.m. Mass

Mary & Joseph: Following Jesus with faith and trust. **Faith Boost** immediately following Mass in the upstairs loft (10 – 15 minutes)

January 23 | 3:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

The Apostles: Jesus calls us to follow Him. Students will prepare to serve at the 5:00 p.m. **Ministry Mass**.

March 28 | Easter Weekend (Any Parish Mass)

St. Mary Magdalene: Sharing the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection.

April 4 | 10:30 a.m. Mass

St. Thomas the Apostle: Following Jesus with faith and questions.



“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
- Saint Paul (1 Corinthians 11:1)