Saint Victor

K-8 Sunday Morning Faith Formation

Love Grows Here

Family Handbook

2025-2026

Saint Victor Church Religious Education Office

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Richfield, Ohio 44286

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Family Handbook 2025-2026

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration

All families who wish to register their children for the Sunday Morning K-8 Faith Formation Program must first be registered with the parish. If your family is not registered with the parish, please call the St. Victor Rectory Office and register before registering for Faith Formation. Registration packets will be given in May of each year to families of returning students. There are Registration Packs in the Gathering Room from June through September for new families who wish to register their children. Registration packets consist of: a cover letter, Registration Form, Emergency Medical Authorization Form and Photo Release Authorization Form. Children need to be registered with all forms completed and submitted to the Religious Education Office prior to attending PSR/JYM Sessions on Sunday, September 28. Please contact the Religious Education Office at **330-659-6321** if you have questions about registering your children.

Fees

The fee for the 2025-2026 K-8 Faith Formation Program is $60.00 per student with a $180.00 family maximum. There is an additional Sacramental Fee for grades 2 and 8 of $50.00 per student. All fees are payable before the first PSR/JYM session on **September 28, 2025**, however, no child will be denied a place in the program due to financial difficulty. Please contact the Religious Education Office if you have questions or concerns regarding fees.

Textbooks

Textbooks and calendar with a syllabus will be handed out at our **WHOLE FAMILY OPENING CELEBRATION**. Because we have no room for storage at the middle school – **students will be responsible to bring to their textbook to each class they attend.** Grade 7 students will be issued additional materials from St. Mary's Press and Grade 8 students will be issued additional materials for the Confirmation Program.

Parental Involvement

Parent volunteers are always needed in various areas of our K-8 Faith Formation Programs. If you are interested in becoming a catechist, substitute catechist, classroom aid or hall monitor, please contact Lyn Pajk in the Religious Education Office. All adult volunteers are required by the Dioceses of Cleveland to complete the VIRTUS Program (Protecting God's Children) and have a current back-ground check on file in the Religious Education Office.

As parents, you are the primary teachers of your children, and family faith formation is essential for spiritual growth. Participation in Mass and Faith Formation sessions is also an important part of your child's on-going faith development. Please make every effort to attend regularly. It is also important to take time each week to review with your child any materials that are sent home. Materials may include: important memos, newsletters, take home activities and family TABLE TALK cards. These are great ways to reinforce concepts covered in class and stay informed as parents. **In the event that your child is absent from a scheduled class, refer to your child's syllabus and go over the material with your student at home**. When the child returns to class please ask the catechist if there were any handouts that they did not receive.

Many of our weekly lessons are geared toward families, whether they are First Communion or Confirmation lessons or WHOLE FAMILY Celebrations. They are the class for the week and at least one parent is expected to attend with their child/children. Please pay special attention to the syllabus. Many of our special gatherings take place in the Church or the Church Hall.

Parents should familiarize themselves with the following guidelines. Additional notices will be sent home on occasion and reinforced through email. Important K-8 Faith Formation updates and reminders will be sent by email and will appear in the Saint Victor Parish Bulletin. On occasion Information Flyers will be sent home as well. The Parish Bulletin can be picked up in church on the weekend, and is also posted on the parish website at **www.saintvictorparish.org.**

Attendance

If your student will **not be attending** a regularly scheduled PSR/JYM Session, please notify Lyn Pajk at the Religious Education Office as soon as possible. The best way to contact her is by email: **stvictorpsr@roadrunner.com.** This will enable us to inform the catechist of their absence, and to make sure that if we have any handouts that week, we can send them home to you through your email. **Students can get credit for missed sessions by completing the week's lesson at home in their book and bringing in the completed assignment to the next class or sending a screen shot to Lyn.**

Student Involvement

Students benefit greatly by actively participating in weekly Mass, scheduled Faith Formation sessions, Children's Liturgy of the Word, parish social events and service projects. Each child is blessed with special gifts and should be encouraged to share them with the Parish Community.

Classroom Rules in General

All students are expected to be courteous and respectful toward teachers and other students at all times. Each catechist will set specific behavioral guidelines for his or her classroom which students will be expected to follow. Parents will be notified of any behavioral problems that cannot be resolved in the classroom.

Students should use the bathroom either before or after class, but if they need to leave the classroom during class, they should go directly to the bathroom and return to class ASAP. Younger students can be escorted to the bathroom during class by a classroom aide. (No loitering in the bathroom or hallways while class is in session.)

Students are also expected to respect the property of Revere Middle School and the property of their students. Students are at **no time to go into an unused classroom or hallway.**

Cell phones must be turned off during K-8 Faith Formation classes. If a student is using their cellphone for any reason other than at the direction of the catechist, the catechist will ask them to turn the cellphone over to them until the class is over.

Entrance and Dismissal Procedure - See Diagram of Pick-Up Traffic Flow on page 5
Students in grades 2 – 8 are to enter Revere Middle School via the main entrance. Classes begin at 9:50 am and end at 11:10 am. Students should not be dropped off prior to 9:30 am, however they should be picked up promptly when class is over. For **Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes** parents are asked to come into the building to drop off and pick up their child(ren) to assure their safety.

- **ALL Students** should enter the school through the **main entrance ONLY when being dropped off.**. All students should proceed to the cafeteria for opening prayer.

- When stopping to drop-off or pick-up students, use the **curb lane ONLY** keeping the area directly in front of the building entrance open so that there is a clear path for pedestrians.

- **Please do not stop or park in the lane between the parking area of the lot and curb lane** as this is a safety hazard for the children and stops traffic from flowing freely. Also, those parked cannot pull out with a whole lane of cars stopped behind them.

- Traffic should **flow in one direction ONLY**.

- Please drive slowly (10 MPH or less) in the parking lot and exercise patience. There are approximately110 students being picked up within a short period of time and it is important that we maintain a safe, Christian environment for everyone.

- **Students should wait in the designated areas ONLY – see map on page 5.** Students should be in view of the Traffic Monitors at all times – **NO waiting around the corners** of the building.

- In order to keep everyone safe and traffic moving during drop-off and pick-up of students on Sunday morning, please follow these guidelines

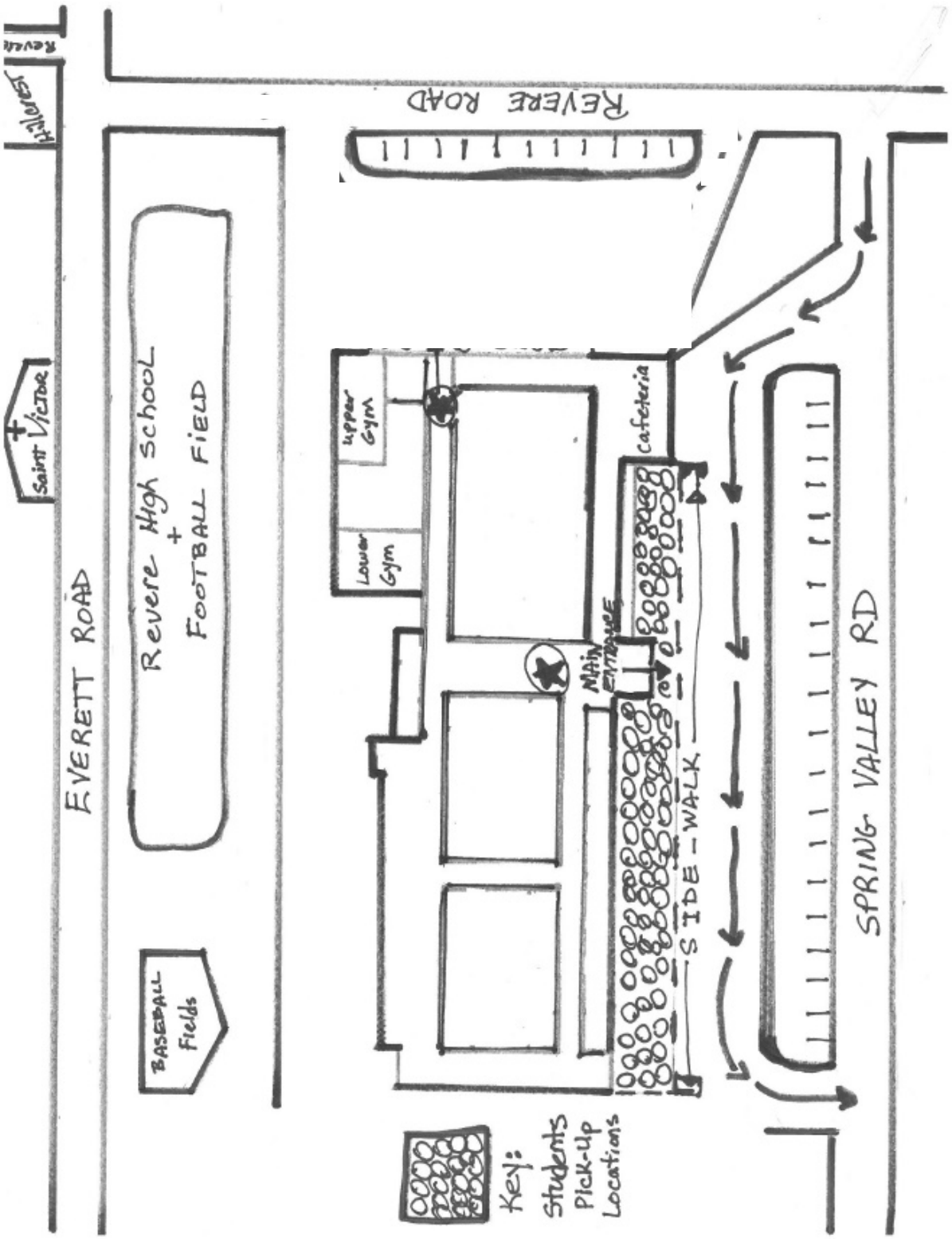
Early Dismissal

If it is necessary for a child to leave early, a **signed note** from a parent or guardian must be **given to the Director of Religious Education**, and the child will be dismissed at the appropriate time. For the safety of children that are leaving early**, parents are asked to come into the school and sign them out at the front desk**. A Faith Formation aide or staff member will then go to your child's classroom to pick up your child and escort them to you. .

Student Visitor Policy

If it is necessary to have a friend visit with one of our student's **a written note must be sent with the visiting child which includes their name, emergency contact information and signature of their parent granting them permission to visit our** Faith Formation Program.

This note should be **presented to the Director** before the child is permitted into the classroom. This insures the safety of our visitor should an emergency arise.



K-8 Sunday Morning Faith Formation Cancellation

In the event that Faith Formation is cancelled due to inclement weather, Lyn will email families by 8:00 am. Please keep an eye on your family email on questionable winter weather days.

REMEMBER: We are a rather large area – with different conditions within just a few miles of each other.
Please be aware of the conditions in your own area –
if you feel it is unsafe **– DO NOT RISK** the safety of yourself and your children –use your discretion and just leave us an email message at stvictorpsr@roadrunner.com

CURRICULUM

Your parish is dedicated to partnering with you as together we strive to enrich the faith life of our children and young teens. Sunday Morning Programs support these efforts by providing a quality religious education for the children and teens of our parish, rich in the faith and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. Our parish staff and volunteers are committed to sharing the message of the Gospel through Christian example, prayer, study and service. It is our hope that together we can build a strong foundation for our families; one that will inspire a deeper love for the Lord and continued growth in the knowledge and practice of our Catholic faith.

Sunday Morning Faith Formation Grades K through 8

Our program for grades Kindergarten through 8 is "Christ In Us" published by Sadlier. The Sadlier "Christ In Us" Program addresses the needs of the child, the family, the catechist, and the Church community through:

- Content that is faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and that holistically embraces the four pillars of the Catechism: Creed, Liturgy and Sacraments, Moral Life, Prayer;
- Reliance on Scripture, Catholic social teaching, vocation awareness, and mission;
- Music and prayer which echo and anticipate liturgical celebrations;
- Methodologies that engage the experience of the child, modeled on Jesus' "pedagogy of faith";
- Reflection and activities which integrate catechesis, liturgy, and life;
- Media and technology used in service to faith and in the context of family;
- Review and assessment which reinforce the essential content of the lesson;
- Reflections and activities which involve the children and their families in catechesis, prayer, discipleship and life.

Each chapter includes a *Sharing Faith with My Family* page to be completed at home. These family pages invite participation in each chapter through prayer, activities, information and review. Activities and discussions on these pages are student-initiated, inviting the student to be the evangelizer.

Grades 7 and 8

Grade 7 In addition to the "Christ In Us" program, The "Discovering Program" Topic: "Growing Up Sexually" published by St. Mary's Press will be integrated into the grade 7 curriculum.

Grade 8: In addition to the "Christ In Us" program, an additional Confirmation program will be integrated into the grade 8 curriculum.

Virtus: Empowering God's Children

In order to continually enhance the efforts of the Catholic Church regarding the protection of children and the creation of safe environments, the Diocese of Cleveland has adopted a new training program for parents and children. *Virtus: Empowering God's Children*, is a program which helps children protect themselves against sexual abuse, and is now part of the required religious education curriculum for the Diocese of Cleveland. Children in grades K-8 will participate in the program on Sunday during a regularly scheduled PSR session. We will discuss this new program with you during the Parent Portion of our Opening Day Whole Family Celebration.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

Children's Liturgy of the Word is celebrated on Sunday at the 8:45 Mass during the Faith Formation year. Liturgy of the Word with Children is a worship experience geared especially for children (ages 4-9). It mirrors the worship experience of the larger community, with a style that is engaging and interactive. Liturgy of the Word with Children offers an experience for the children to hear the Scriptures in words they understand and to share their own understanding of God's word. The catechist and teen volunteers lead the children in CLW in the Gathering Room during Sunday morning Mass. There is a CLW schedule posted in the Gathering Room. **All Confirmation students are required to assist in helping with CLW Session**. Students in Grade 7 are invited to assist. (Please speak with Lyn about exceptions such as altar servers). Please sign up when the schedule is announced and posted. Scheduled CLW Sessions will be posted in the church bulletin.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

As members of the faith community, and as "primary catechists", the first way parents can help to prepare their children for a sacrament is by their active participation in the celebration of the sacraments. Weekly participation in the Eucharist and regular participation in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation are important as children best learn the sacramental way of life by living it.

It is expected that children who are preparing for the Grade 2 Sacraments of First Penance and First Communion be enrolled and attend Grade 1 Faith Formation Sessions. It is expected that children who are preparing for the Grade 8 Sacrament of Confirmation be enrolled and attend Grade 7 Faith Formation Sessions.

First Penance (Reconciliation) – Second Grade

As a parent of a child who is preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, you are invited to experience with your child the gifts of joy, peace, forgiveness and new life that God offers through Jesus in this sacrament. It is through you that your child learns to relate to God and others. Your example of being open to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation yourself will help your child value the gift of God's forgiveness.

Our preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be done on Sunday mornings. The materials used will help the children appreciate the wonderful gift of God's forgiveness. Children will be learning the Ten Commandments and the Story of the Prodigal Son to use for an examination of conscience before confession and a prayer of sorrow to be said during confession.

Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and their families will meet at the church to view the confessional with Fr. Corrigan. At this time, Fr. Corrigan will also walk the children through the Rite of Reconciliation and allow them to practice. Please see the Schedule for dates and times of First Penance, parent meetings and special events.

First Communion (Eucharist) – Second Grade

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, your child was welcomed to new life in God's family. Just as Baptism began your child's initiation in the faith, preparing for First Eucharist continues this process as your child matures and grows in understanding and relationship with God, your family and the world. Through lessons in provided materials, children will gain an awareness that the Eucharist, under the appearances of bread and wine, is the real Body and Blood of Christ. They will gain a basic understanding that at Mass we praise and thank God for his goodness.

Our preparation for the Sacrament will be done during some Sunday Morning Parent/Child sessions as well as integrated into regular Sunday sessions to prepare grade two students for the Sacrament of First Communion after they receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parents can also help their children prepare for the Sacrament of Eucharist by encouraging them to participate actively in the celebration of the Mass. You, as parents, along with the catechists will explain to the children the guidelines about receiving Holy Communion and model how Communion should be received.

Children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time will meet with Fr. Corrigan in the church to practice. Fr. Corrigan will walk them through the celebration of First Eucharist and let them sample a host. Please see the Schedule for dates and times of the Sacrament of First Communion, parent meetings and special events.

Confirmation – Eighth Grade

The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The word initiation refers to the formal process of joining an organization or a chosen way of life. Together these three Sacraments initiate Catholics into an ever growing relationship with Christ and his Church.

Through Baptism, we are reborn as we receive the grace of the Holy Spirit for the first time. We are born to a new life in faith. Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism. In Confirmation we receive a special strengthening of the Holy Spirit, which seals or perfects the grace of Baptism. Confirmation, as it is in Baptism, is so powerful that it imprints us with a special spiritual mark, or character. That is why Confirmation, like Baptism, can be received only once.

There are several Sunday Morning Parent/Youth sessions as part of the confirmation program. Parents can help their children prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation by attending the confirmation sessions as well as by encouraging them to participate actively in weekly Mass, Children's Liturgy of the Word, scheduled Sunday morning sessions and Confirmation retreat, special liturgies, social events, and service projects. Please see the Schedule for the dates and times related to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

REVERE MIDDLE SCHOOL
(not to scale)
Emergency EXIT
216
212
209
207
205
203
201
5
4
3
2
1
MAIN ENTRANCE
DROP/PICK-UP
Emergency EXIT
OFFICE HALL
Cafeteria
Emergency EXIT
204
Kdg
304
202
6
8B
7
305
303
301
GYM HALL
UPPER GYM
Emergency EXIT

Sunday Morning K-8 Faith Formation Faculty and Staff 2025-2026

Director of Religious Education: Lyn Pajk **Office: (330) 659-6321**
Email: stvictorpsr@roadrunner.com
Religious Programs Assistant: Sue Heckel

CATECHISTS		
Grade	**Room**	**Name**
Kindergarten	RMS Room 204	Lexi Perciak & Bobby Phillips
Grade 1	RMS Room 201	Luke Karwowski (Mark and Lynn)
Grade 2	RMS Room 203	Angie Perciak
Grade 3	RMS Room 205	Cristin Snodgrass & Erin Dean
Grade 4	RMS Room 207	Ed Sunkin
Grade 5	RMS Room 209	Janet Jankura
Grade 6	RMS Room 301	
Grade 7	RMS Room 305	
Grade 8	RMS Room 303	Steve Dutkiewicz

See Diagram of Revere Middle School Classrooms on page 11

LOVING OTHERS PRAYERS

"In a world where so many are hungry,
May we eat this food with humble hearts;
In a world where so many are lonely,
May we share this friendship with joyful hearts. Amen."

"Dear God, please help me to be kind today. Make my words gentle, my actions helpful, and my heart full of love for everyone I meet. Amen."

"Dear God, help me to be kind to my family and friends and particularly to people who are different from me or who are unkind to me. Please help me to be a reflection of your love and kindness especially when it's hard. Amen."

"Dear God, thank you for giving us food, water, clothes, and a warm home. We ask that you help us to share what we have with those who go without these basic things. Strengthen us to visit those who are sick or in prison, and to be kind to everyone we meet. Help us to see you in those who are most in need. Amen"

"Loving and Generous God, we thank you for all of the good things in our lives. We pray for children who are hungry, who don't have a safe place to live, or who are sick and don't have access to the care they need. We pray that you will open our eyes to see their needs and inspire us to help them in any way we can. Help us to be kind and generous, and to share what we have with others. Teach us to see your face in the faces of the poor, and to treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve. Give us the courage to stand up for what is right and to work for a world where everyone has enough. Amen."