

**Saint Peter Church**  
**30 Saint Peter's Lane, PO Box 707**  
**Higganum, CT 06441**  
**(860)345-8018**

January 2023

Dear Faith Formation Families,

Thank you for trusting Saint Peter Church to be part of your children's faith formation process. Faith formation begins in the home but should always involve your church family as well. We do not take this responsibility lightly. Our priests, teachers, and parish council are dedicated in providing the best religious education possible for your children.

This year (2023-2024) our goal is to have a comfortable and fun learning environment in every classroom. Our Faith Formation classes will be in person.

Enclosed / attached is the class calendar and other forms related to the registration process. We are now taking applications for the 2023-2024 faith formation year. We ask the following to make things easier for everyone involved.

1. Applications and other forms will be emailed to you using the email we have on file. **We ask that you print out the forms and mail them into the church office to complete the registration process.** In the past, some emails blended in with the original email thread making them difficult to find. If you would rather have the necessary forms mailed to you in the traditional way, we would be happy to do so.
2. Payments of fees can be made either by check (with the application) or by using our on-line giving system. The link to our on-line giving system may be found on our website, [stpeterhigganum.com](http://stpeterhigganum.com). If you have any questions about signing up for on-line payments, please call the church office at (860)345-8018. We would be happy to take you step by step through the process. If you already use our on-line giving system for church offertory, you are already registered. Just make a one-time payment under the religious education fund tab.
3. There is a firm registration deadline in order to ensure that your child has the appropriate grade level materials. **This year's faith formation registration deadline is August 31, 2023.** We need time to order the materials, get them into the facility, sort them and put them in the classrooms. Last year we had late sign-ups which caused some students to be without books their first day of classes. We try our best, but we need your help in signing up your children on time.

We understand some of our students have sports / school commitments in the fall. **If your child will be attending any portion of the faith formation year, their registration is still needed by this date in order to have the proper materials for them.** When they begin attending the classes, missing materials will not be an issue and the learning process will not be delayed any longer than necessary.

We do not know if homeschooling will be available for sacramental years during the new Faith Formation year at this time. This will be addressed at a later date.

This year (2023-2024) will be a sacramental year which includes First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Forms pertaining to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Communion Class and the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation classes are included. Confirmation is a two-year program. Any 10<sup>th</sup> grade students not completing the 9<sup>th</sup> grade formation process will be placed in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in order to complete the work to receive the sacrament. They will receive the sacrament when they complete the 10<sup>th</sup> grade portion of the program the following year.

Understandably, this is a lot of information to take in for the upcoming year. Parts of the program such as mandatory service hours will be determined in the near future. We will let you know of these developments as they happen.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the church office by calling **(860)345-8018** or by emailing **[faithformationspchigganum@gmail.com](mailto:faithformationspchigganum@gmail.com)**.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Joseph F. De Costa*

Rev. Joseph F. De Costa  
Pastor

*Carol Ann Keough*

Carol Ann Keough  
Coordinator of Religious Education

## Saint Peter Church, Higganum

### Faith Formation Calendar 2022-2023 Grades 1-10

Classes: 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.; Confirmation Classes: 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

<u>Date:</u>		<u>Special Notes:</u>
October 1, 2023	First Class	
October 8, 2023	NO CLASS	Columbus Day Holiday
October 15, 2023	Class	
October 22, 2023	Class	Rosary (in church)
October 29, 2023	Class	
November 5, 2023	Class	
November 12, 2023	Class	No-Go-Tell Program
November 19, 2023	Class	
November 26, 2023	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving Weekend
December 3, 2023	Class	
December 10, 2023	Class	
December 17, 2023	Class	
December 24, 2023	NO CLASS	Christmas / New Year Break
December 31, 2023	NO CLASS	Christmas / New Year Break
January 7, 2024	Class	
January 14, 2024	NO CLASS	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 21, 2024	Class	
January 28, 2024	Class	
February 4, 2024	Class	
February 11, 2024	Class	
February 18, 2024	NO CLASS	Winter Break
February 25, 2024	Class	
March 3, 2024	Class	
March 10, 2024	Class	Stations of the Cross (in church)
March 17, 2024	Class	
March 24, 2024	Class	
March 31, 2024	NO CLASS	Easter Sunday
April 7, 2024	Last Day of Classes	
		Palm Sunday – March 24, 2024
		Easter Sunday – March 31, 2024
<u>Sacraments:</u>		
November 10, 2023	Confirmation (10th)	Confirmation will be held at St. Peter Church.
March 16, 2024*	First Reconciliation	*Tentative Date (rehearsals to be scheduled)
April 27, 2024*	First Communion	*Tentative Date (rehearsals to be scheduled)

January 2023

Dear Third Grade Faith Formation Students and Families,

This faith formation year, we will joyfully celebrate the sacraments of **First Reconciliation** and **First Holy Communion** at Saint Peter Church! It is an exciting time in the lives of our students, their families, and the entire church family as well. Now, this may seem a little overwhelming at first, but please know your children will be well prepared to receive their sacraments. We encourage questions, thoughts and comments during the entire process of preparation and cannot wait to celebrate this special time with you.

To help you stay well informed, here is a brief overview of what is to be expected in third grade this year.

**Student Responsibilities:**

- **To attend faith formation classes and do the required work,**
- Participate in your classes, asking questions and interacting when appropriate,
- Learning your prayers, not necessarily memorizing the words, but learning what they mean and what you are praying and asking of the Lord. We want you to be comfortable with and understand the prayers, especially the form of confession.

**Parent / Guardian Responsibilities:**

- **Fully complete the registration paperwork,**
- **Obtaining a baptismal certificate from the church where your child was baptized.** If your child was baptized at Saint Peter Church, Higganum, let us know this so we can research the information at the beginning of the program,
- If your child was never baptized, this needs to be done first, before receiving the other sacraments,
- Encourage your child in the Faith and help them complete their faith formation lessons as necessary.

**Faith Formation Program Responsibilities:**

- To provide the necessary learning materials and support to help each child understand the Catholic faith,
- To provide the necessary learning materials and support to help each child understand the importance of the sacraments they are about to receive,
- To be there for both students and their families when either have questions or issues for which they need answers or help. We are here for you.

The sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion should be received both reverently and frequently. This is why the preparation to receive these gifts of God is so very important. Together we will make this year as special as possible for your child.

Sincerely,

*Carol Ann Keough*  
Coordinator of Religious Education

January 2023

Dear 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Students and Families,

This faith formation year, we will joyfully celebrate the sacrament of **Confirmation** for our 10<sup>th</sup> grade students at Saint Peter Church. It is an exciting time in the lives of our young adults, their families, and the entire church family as well. Now, this may seem a little overwhelming at first, but please know our young adults will be well prepared to receive this sacrament. We encourage questions, thoughts, and comments during the entire process of preparation and cannot wait to celebrate this special time with you.

To help you stay well informed, here is a brief overview of what is to be expected in both Confirmation grades this year. Please know that the preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation is a two-year process as directed by the Diocese of Norwich. The preparation begins in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and continues in the 10<sup>th</sup>. The sacrament is conferred when the young adult is in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade after having completed the necessary work from the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level.

**9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Responsibilities:**

- **To attend faith formation classes and do the required work,**
- Participate in your classes, asking questions and interacting when appropriate.
- Participate in any retreats provided by the parish for your benefit.
- Complete any service hours or attendance guidelines as required by the diocese.

**Parent / Guardian Responsibilities:**

- **Full complete the registration paperwork.**
- **Obtaining a baptismal certificate and any other sacramental records from the church where your child received those sacraments.** If your child received his or her sacraments at Saint Peter Church, Higganum, let us know this so we can research the information at the beginning of the program.
- If your child was never baptized, received Reconciliation or Communion, this needs to be addressed first before Confirmation. How this will be done will be discussed further with the pastor.
- Encourage your child in the Faith and help them complete their faith formation lessons as necessary.
- Weekly (Saturday Vigil or Sunday) Mass attendance is mandatory. A sign up sheet is available.

**Faith Formation Program Responsibilities:**

- To provide necessary learning materials and support to help each young adult understand the teachings of the Catholic faith,
- To provide necessary learning materials and support to help each young adult understand the importance of the sacrament they are about to receive,
- To be there for both the students and their families when either have questions or issues for which they need answers or help. We are here for you.
- To arrange with the schedule of the Bishop of Norwich an appropriate date and time for the conferring of the sacrament of Confirmation.

Sincerely,

*Carol Ann Keough*  
Coordinator of Religious Education

**Saint Peter Church, Higganum**

**Faith Formation Registration Form 2023-2024**

All registrations are due on or before August 31, 2023.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_ School Grade Entering 9/2022: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Step Parents: \_\_\_\_\_ Child primarily lives with \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings Names and Dates of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Registered Members of Saint Peter Church? Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone Numbers: Name / Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Did your child attend religious education classes last year? Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_

Grade Completed and Where: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sacraments Received: MUST BE COMPLETED**

**If not Saint Peter Church, Higganum, please be sure to include the names, towns, and state where sacraments were received.**

**Baptism: Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_ Church, City, State & Year Sacrament Received:**

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**Reconciliation: Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_ Church, City, State & Year Sacrament Received:**

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**First Communion: Yes: \_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_ Church, City, State & Year Sacrament Received:**

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**Medical Information:** If your child has any medical conditions, allergies, or learning disabilities, please fill out the information below. Please note that all information will be kept confidential.

Medical Condition or Allergies: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please explain:

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Other information you feel the program coordinator or catechists should know:

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Volunteers are always welcome and are encouraged to participate. Please check areas which are of interest to you.

Catechist: \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events: \_\_\_\_\_

Set Up / Clean Up (Events): \_\_\_\_\_ Baking (Events): \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuition Fee Schedule:**

**1 student = \$100**

**2 students = \$125**

**3 students or more = \$150**

**Grade 3: First Reconciliation and First Communion Year – add \$25 per student to the fee (\$125.00)**

**Grade 9: Confirmation Class – add \$25 per student to the fee for extra books, etc. (\$125.00) The Grade 9 Confirmation class must be completed in order to be eligible to attend the Grade 10 Confirmation class.**

**Grade 10: Since the bishop has been coming out early in the Faith Formation year, the fee will only be \$50 per student.**

**Please mail this completed registration form with a check payable to Saint Peter Church: Saint Peter Church, PO Box 707, Higganum, CT 06441.**

Paper registration forms (one per student) must be completed and handed in through the mail or by dropping the paperwork off via the church collection basket, or directly at the church office, 30 Saint Peter's Lane, Higganum, CT 06441 on or before August 31, 2022.

The Faith Formation fee may be paid by check submitted with the registration form(s) or through the on-line giving system. A link to this system may be found on our website [stpeterhigganum.com](http://stpeterhigganum.com), You may already be signed up for on-line giving for your church offertory. You may use your account, making a one-time donation to the "religious education registration" fund. If you have any questions concerning on-line giving, please call the church office, (860)345-8018.

**Faith Formation Office:**

email – [FaithFormationSPCHigganum@gmail.com](mailto:FaithFormationSPCHigganum@gmail.com) call: (860)345-8018