



Saint Ann Catholic Church
17111 Route 1
S. Chesterfield, VA 23834
(804) 526-2548

Dear Parents,

Jesus' last words were, "**Go, and make disciples of all Nations**". Here at St. Ann, we continue to challenge each other to take this command seriously. If we call ourselves "Catholic", then we have made the intentional choice to be *ACTIVE* followers of Jesus. This includes a commitment to form our children as disciples and to continue to grow in our own discipleship. Faith Formation every year and regular Mass attendance is not an option; it is *What We Do and Who We Are as Baptized Catholic Followers of Jesus*. Please make sure to read this message in its entirety to clearly understand expectations and guidelines.

Attached are the Christian Formation registration forms for the year 2023 - 2024. This year you have the option of being able to complete your forms online. If you choose to use the online format, please complete the form, save it, attach it to your email, and send it to slucero@stanncc.com. If you prefer, you can print the form, complete it manually, and return it via U.S. Mail or the Drop Box in the Commons. Please return the registration information, with appropriate fees, **before September 3, 2023**. As you complete the Registration Form pay attention to the following items:

- a) Register **all** family members, **elementary and youth**, on the same form.
- b) Remember to complete Medical Release and Photo permission area of the form
- c) Be sure to see the back of the form for pricing, sacraments & volunteer opportunities
- d) Sacramental Preparation for 1st Eucharist & 1st Penance is in 2nd grade (age 7yrs).
- e) For families with youth aged 15 and in 10th grade and older who are requesting Confirmation, please make sure to complete the **Confirmation Registration Form** as well. If possible, please submit separate checks for Confirmation and Youth Group.
- f) St. Ann Parish also offers sacrament preparation (baptism, reconciliation, 1st Eucharist) for older children and adults.
- g) Complete the *Empowering God's Children* permission slip and return it with your registration forms.

New this year is *Empowering God's Children*, a program developed by VIRTUS online, and endorsed by our Diocese, to be used in Catholic Schools and parishes to assist children and young people in recognizing their dignity and to advocate for their own physical and emotional protection. It is of vital importance that EVERY child and youth be given the opportunity to take part in this critical element of our Diocesan Safe Environment Program because of the practical life skills it teaches young people. It will not be mandatory, and parental consent (form included) is required. This training will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2023 during regular formation sessions. This is a new Diocesan expectation. Please contact Silvana or Elise if you have conflicts.

To pay electronically, you can go to <https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-1207?tab=home> and the site will walk you through the payment process. Please note that an electronic payment will reflect a 2.5 or 3% service fee. **You will still need to return the Registration forms**. Additionally, for registrations including regular registration and registration for Sacraments, please submit separate checks for each. This assists with accurate allocation of funds and bookkeeping.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create an environment where our children can learn and grow in faith. Please contact the office with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Blessings,

Silvana Lucero
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Elise Chapman
Director of Youth Ministries
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