

St. George Syro Malabar Catholic Church

408 Getty Avenue, Paterson, New Jersey - 07503



FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

**Parents/Students Handbook
2026 - 2027**

ADMINISTRATION

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FAITH FORMATION TEACHERS : 2026-2027

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FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR 2026-2027

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Activity</i>
2026	
September 20	Faith Formation re-opening date Text book distribution
September 27	Regular Class
October 4	Regular Class - Class Photo - Pre-K to 5th Grade - PTA
October 11	Regular Class - Class Photo - 6th to 12th Grade - DYA North East Leadership Retreat
October 18	Regular Class
October 25	Regular Class
November 1	Regular Class All Saints Day Parade
November 8	Regular Class Bible Quiz - Written Exam
November 15, 22	Regular Class
November 29	No Faith Formation Class - Thanksgiving
December 6	Regular Class Bible Quiz on Stage - Sub Juniors (Tentative)
December 13	Regular Class Bible Quiz on Stage - Juniors (Tentative)
December 20	Regular Class
December 27	No Faith Formation Class - Christmas Vacation
2027	
January 3	No Faith Formation Class - Christmas/New Year Celebration (Tentative)
January 10	Regular Class
January 17	Regular Class Bible Quiz on Stage - Seniors (Tentative)
January 24	MID YEAR Exam (Tentative)
January 31	Regular Class
February 7, 14, 21, 28	Regular Class Parent-Teacher conference
March 7, 14, 21	Regular Class
March 28	No Faith Formation Class - Easter Sunday
April 4, 11, 18	Regular Class
April 25	No Faith Formation Class - Parish Feast (Tentative)
May 9	Regular Class

May 15	Holy Communion (Tentative)
May 16, 23	Regular Class
May 30	No Faith Formation Class - Memorial Weekend
June 6	FINAL EXAM
June 13	FINAL DAY - FUN DAY

KEY DATES

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Activity</i>
September 20, 2026	Faith Formation Re-opening & PTA
November 1, 2026	All Saints Day
December 24, 2026	Nativity Show
December 25, 2026	Christmas
January 16, 2027	Bible Quiz - <i>Dei Verbum</i> - Round 1 Online
January 24, 2027	MID YEAR EXAM
February 8, 2027	Ash Monday
March 28	Easter
April 10, 2027	Bible Quiz - <i>Dei Verbum</i> - Final Online
April 25, 2027	Parish Feast / തിരുനാൾ (Tentative)
May 15, 2027	Holy Communion (Tentative)
June 6, 2027	Final Exam
June 13, 2027	Final Day of Faith Formation - Fun Day
June 28 - July 2, 2027	VBS dates (Tentative)
TBD	Retreat High Schoolers
TBD	Youth Gala by 12th graders

MISSION

The faith formation program of St. George Syro-Malabar Catholic Church provides opportunities for children to grow in their knowledge of God and catholic faith. It prepares them for the celebration of the sacraments and liturgy of the Church which is the “center, source, and summit” of our Christian life (based on Catechism of the Catholic Church - CCC #1324 & 1343). It enables each individual to nourish his/her own personal relationship with God through prayer, study, Sacred Scripture, and frequent participation in the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. Thus, it assists our parents in the moral and spiritual formation of our children in

order that they grow as the children of God and to be active members of our parish community and society.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

PARENTS INVOLVEMENT

As guided by the Catholic Church, parents are the primary source for faith formation of their children. Catechists/Parents/Students are partners in learning. Parents can greatly aid catechists in the faith development of students by regular Holy Qurbana attendance, by encouraging family prayer, and by taking active interest in both the formal and informal ways of faith formation of their children.

PRAYER

Please review the prayers that your child learns in the class. Also, aid them in developing a habit of informal prayer or “spontaneous prayer”. Most importantly, parents should attend Sunday Holy Qurbana and make sure the children also attend the Holy Qurbana keeping in mind that the Sunday Liturgy is the distinguished celebration of our church and participation in Sunday Liturgy is the responsibility of all Catholic Christians.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Faith Formation Class starts with assembly immediately after the 10.00AM Holy Qurbana. Generally, more than three consequent absences during the year will call into question a child’s ability to remain in the program at the current level. Frequent absences will also call into question a child’s readiness to receive various Sacraments.

Each Class Teacher duly records student’s attendance for class and Holy Qurbana. Frequent absences or a pattern of inconsistency may result in the coordinator’s request for a parent consultation with the vicar.

Students who come later than 15 minutes after the commencement of the Holy Qurbana will not get credit for attendance that day for Holy Qurbana. Attendance has two parts. Holy Qurbana participation and class participation.

Please note that Holy Qurbana attendance is very crucial. Parents need to make sure that children attend Holy Qurbana and bring them on-time.

EARLY DISMISSAL

No student will be dismissed early from the class without the approval of the Vicar and a written note to the Teacher/Coordinators from his/her parents.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Student evaluation is based on multiple factors as below.

- 50% of the weightage is given to Holy Qurbana attendance and active participation.
- 25% of the weightage is given to participation in class and other church activities.
- 25% of the weightage is given to midterm, final exam and homework.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner befitting a school situation in a Catholic Christian environment. They must respect the authority of the catechist as a teacher, respect each other, and respect school and parish property. Vulgarity, profanity, or any disrespectful language or behavior will not be tolerated. The catechist will handle misbehavior in the classroom. If a child consistently or seriously misbehaves, the coordinator and then Vicar will be asked to assist in handling the situation. Parents will receive notification of such incidents.

DRESS CODE

The students may dress comfortably for the class. All clothing should be neat and within the bounds of good taste and modesty. Dresses with offensive language or pictures as well as revealing clothing are not acceptable.

General Guidelines: Children 3rd Grade and above:

- **Boys - No shorts and no T shirts without a collar.**
- **Girls - Skirt/dress should be below knees.**

STUDENT SAFETY

All teachers will make an honest attempt to adhere to the schedule set for the class time. Teachers should not make plans that may result in children's stay beyond their scheduled class-hours without permission from the Vicar or coordinators. When parents bring the children to the school for any reason on non-scheduled days/time, they should ensure the presence of an authorized person before the parents leave.

ENVIRONMENT SAFETY

All catechists and any volunteers who have regular contact with children are required to have a criminal background check completed and certified on Safe environment training.

All children are required to attend safe environment training set by the Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago.

Parents are encouraged to attend the sessions on safe environment training offered at parish.

FEES

Tuition and books fee for the academic year have been established as follows:

Tuition, books, retreats, seminars, and supplies \$100.00

Parents are requested to pay the fees in full at the time of registration through Parish On Net. Any exception needs approval of the vicar.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise
and ever rejoice in his consolation.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.