



Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church

To See as Christ Sees and Love as Christ Loves

Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts

We use the "Finding God" program created by Loyola Press, a non-profit Jesuit ministry dedicated to nurturing a lived faith. "Finding God: Our Response to God's Gifts", reflects the inspiration of St. Ignatius of Loyola and describes what Catholic formation calls us to do:

- recognize the presence of God in our own lives
- discern the presence of God in all people and circumstances
- recognize the presence of God in our experiences of God's creation
- and live as people for others.

"Finding God" intertwines experiences in prayer, scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, and liturgy for children and adults as individuals, as families, and as learners on a faith journey.

- **Prayer** nourishes a relationship with God.
- **Scripture** sets the foundation for the Authentic teaching of the Church that is revealed through both Scripture and Tradition.
- **Catholic Social Teaching** shows how our faith moves us to concern for others and a commitment to the principles of social action.
- **Liturgy** helps children connect their faith to the celebration of faith at Mass and invites all of the faithful to join in a more meaningful participation in the Church's sacramental and liturgical life.



Within each grade, our focus is on God, Jesus, the Church, the Sacraments, lives of the Saints, and Morality.

- **Grade 1:** God is our Creator and loves us as our Father.
- **Grade 2:** We prepare for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist.
- **Grade 3:** God calls us to live in community as members of the Church.
- **Grade 4:** God calls us to lead a moral life.
- **Grade 5:** Through the Sacraments, we live more fully in the Holy Spirit.



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- **Grade 6:** The traditions of the Old Testament.
- **Grade 7:** The New Testament
- **Grade 8:** The life of Jesus and the Church, Pre-Confirmation

Diocesan Guidelines for Reconciliation and First Communion

The diocesan guidelines require students to be enrolled in a faith formation program for two years beginning in the first grade. Students who are beyond the third grade and have not received the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion or who are just beginning their faith journey in our faith formation program must attend the program for one full year before transitioning into a Sacramental Preparation Program for older children. Upon completion of the second year in the faith formation program along with additional faith steps for the student and parents, the student will then receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion.

