

**ROMAN CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
OF THE TONAWANDAS**

**FAITH FORMATION
2026-2027**

Our Lady of Czestochowa
57 Center Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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Welcome to the 2026/2027 faith formation year for the Roman Catholic Community of the Tonawandas.

All classes will be held at Our Lady of Czestochowa, 57 Center Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY, in the school.

Fees - \$ 80.00 per family *plus*, if applicable
First Reconciliation fee \$20.00 per child
First Communion fee \$30.00 per child
Confirmation fee \$40.00 per child

Summary of RCCT Faith Formation Program

1. **Faith Formation in the Home** – home study for Grades K-9 *PLUS* attendance at, *at least 2*, family faith activities (which will be announced) during the school year and contact with the faith formation in the home coordinator. Students will complete quizzes on-line in which results are emailed to the home coordinator and recorded. A suggested completion schedule for units will be provided.

2. **Growing a family of Faith (GOF)** – A hybrid model of catechesis.
 - a.) Families will gather one time per month, usually the first Sunday of the month October through May (dates tba)
 - b.) Families are encouraged to attend the 9:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Czestochowa (OLC)
 - c.) After Mass, families will gather in the OLC parish hall for a community meal, which will consist of breakfast type foods.
 - d.) After our community meal, children will go to grade level sessions where they will be taught the 1st session in a unit.
 - e.) Parents of children in Kindergarten - 6th grade, as well as any other adults who wish to stay, will remain in the Hall where there will be a parent-focused exploration of the topic.
 - f.) After each monthly meeting, you will have the rest of the month to teach your child the remaining four sessions of the unit. To guide you through each session, you will use the At-Home Edition, which we will provide to you (homekit), in conjunction with their Children's Book. You can access the

At-Home Edition online as well. To gauge your child's understanding of the faith concepts, he or she will complete an Interactive Session Review online after each session and e-mail the results to the Growing a family of Faith (GOF) coordinator, which will be recorded.

- g.) The 4 interactive session reviews for the unit must be submitted prior to the next GOF Session.

3. Weekly In Person Classes held in 3 consecutive weeks

- a.) Sunday – If you elect to attend weekly in person classes, families will attend the first session of the unit as described in 2 above for the Growing a family of Faith (GOF) program. Children will then return the following 2 weeks of the month on Sunday from 10:00 am – 11:30 am for instruction.
- b.) Monday evenings – 6:00-7:30 Grades K-9
- c.) Tuesday evenings – 6:00-7:30 Grades K-9

If you elect 3a, 3b, or 3c above, parents of students in grades K to 5 will be required to attend the last 30 minutes at the end of each unit to learn about family activities to continue at home.

All programs must complete 2 family-faith-fun and service sessions to comply with the diocesan policy. These events are fun with learning, crafts. Families grade K-6 can have signed up via sign-up genius in August. Families with students grade 7-10 are asked to volunteer at the events.

4. Sacramental Preparation

- a.) **First Reconciliation (2nd grade); First Communion (3rd grade):** preparation will start in the classes or home study. Four times a year families preparing for these sacraments will be asked to attend 4 preparation sessions. These sessions will be held on a Saturday morning or afternoon. Parent or responsible adult is asked to attend with their child at the

meeting, first session and the retreat (Session 4). Session 2 and 3 will be without parents. **This procedure applies to both catholic and public school students.**

b.) **Students must have one year of faith formation before they enter sacrament preparation.** This means that students who will be preparing for First Reconciliation in second grade must have attended 1st grade before beginning sacrament preparation for First Reconciliation. Likewise, students in 3rd grade must have attended 2nd grade faith formation before preparing for First Communion.

c.) **Confirmation (10th grade)**

(i) **For students *not* attending Catholic high school** classes will be offered as follows:
Sunday morning 10 AM – 12 PM
Sunday evening from 6 PM-8 PM
Tuesday evening from 6PM to 8 PM.

- Students will attend *two* 2 hours in person session per month; there will be a schedule for the classes. Work will be assigned to be completed prior to the next in person session.
- Students will also be asked to complete 6 hours of service; which includes 3 hours for the RCCT. We will also do a three-hour project as a group.

(ii) **The students who attend Catholic High school;** will be asked to attend 4 classes at OLC starting in February; and fulfill all other requirements as outlined above.

(iii) **For students entering the confirmation program attending public school:** 9th grade religious education must be completed prior to the 10th grade year.

Please visit our website at www.rcct.faith and check out the Faith Formation tab for more information and to register for one of the options above