

## Christ Our Hope FFC Education Guidelines

The following guidelines are based on the Archdiocesan Faith Formation Commission and Archdiocesan Catholic School Board (AFFC/ACSB) Policy Manual, Archdiocesan Sacramental Guidelines, and the traditions of the parishes that make up the Cluster of Christ Our Hope.

The following guidelines recognize the Church belief and Archdiocesan policy that,

*Parents/guardians are the primary educators of children. They are to be involved in the parish school and catechetical programs. **Continuous enrollment of children in the religious education program is expected to permit ongoing formation which is age appropriate.***  
(AFFC/ACSB Policy 6150.2)

### Religious Education Instruction

- 1) Parents as the primary educators of their child(ren), must ensure the continuous enrollment of the student in a religious education program from grades Kindergarten thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. AFFC/ACSB policy 6150.4 states, “*Sacramental preparation is not limited to the year(s) in which the sacrament will be celebrated, but presumes continuous enrollment in the religious education program to permit ongoing formation which is age appropriate.*” As a result parents/guardians wishing to have their child(ren) involved in the sacramental preparation programs (First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation) of the Light of Christ program are expected to have the student attend all of the general religious education sessions each year throughout the student’s primary and secondary education years, unless the student is enrolled in a Catholic School. The approved religious education program for the Christ Our Hope parishes is the Light of Christ *Generations of Faith* program.

Students who do not or cannot meet this required criteria will need to meet with the Director of Faith Formation (DFF) to determine what will be required to ensure the student is properly prepared to participate in the Sacramental Preparation programs.

- 2) Preparation for the reception of a sacrament is separate and distinct from ongoing catechesis. Separate sacramental preparation programs are in place to meet AFFC/ACSB guidelines.
- 3) Parents/guardians are responsible to prove their child(ren)’s continual enrollment in a religious education program at their previous parish, when entering the Light of Christ program. Also, students wishing to enroll in the Light of Christ programs, who are not members of one of the parishes that make up the cluster of Christ Our Hope, are to first receive permission from their local pastor.
- 4) Persons with disabilities are to be included in the Light of Christ catechetical programs. If necessary, accommodations will be made by talking to the DFF.
- 5) It is up to the discretion of the Pastor in collaboration with the DFF, to determine, according to the needs of the individual, appropriate catechetical requirements for a sacramental preparation candidate who has not had ongoing catechesis.
- 6) The parent/guardian **MUST** inform the Director of Faith Formation **PRIOR** to the start of the religious education program year if they wish to discuss an alternative to the above stated religious education program.