

Saint Matthew Parish

Family Faith Formation Program

“Faith in the Catholic tradition is formed primarily in the family, and supported by the parish and local community.”

What is Family Faith Formation?

Family Faith Formation is the parish religious education program. Family Faith Formation has something for everyone! We have programming for Preschool (ages 3-5) through High School. There is an adult group with babysitting available for adults that attend the adult sessions. PS through 5th grade meets individually. 6th-8th grade meets as Middle School and 9th-12th meet as High School. Depending on the registration numbers, some of the classes may be split or combined.

What time does FFF meet?

We meet on most Sundays from 10:15-11:20. You are welcome to attend coffee and doughnuts in the café before our sessions. We ask that everyone please be prompt to their FFF session as the catechists work hard to prepare to fill the hearts and minds of the children during this valuable time. We ask parents to accompany their children to their assigned room. Please remain with the child if the catechist has not yet arrived. Children 2nd grade through High School will be dismissed and free to go to meet their parents. All preschool through 1st grade children are asked to be picked up in their rooms.

Curriculum

There are standards set out by the archdiocese and the catechists use this as their guide for catechizing the children. They also use the Our Sunday Visitor /Harcourt Religion Publisher series “Call To Faith”. The catechists are encouraged to use many different resources and activities to make the lessons come to life in an interesting and interactive way.

Our Middle School program is unique as it explores faith through service, faith sharing, a retreat and other community building activities.

Our High School program does the same allowing significant time for discussion, faith sharing and community building as well.

Our Adult Sessions are led by our Pastoral Associate Pat Witt and consist of faith sharing through the question of the week and the reading of the Gospel. They also have topical presentations and video presentations. The topics are most often suggested by the group. We encourage all of the adults to try this wonderful group. Faith sharing is optional and no pressure is ever given to participate. It is a wonderful way for the adults to meet others in the parish and to grow in their faith along with their children.

Fees

There are no fees for the Family Faith Formation Program.

Visits

*All parents are **strongly encouraged** to visit their children’s sessions whenever they would like. The catechists always like to have the parents involved!*

Sacramental Preparation

Here at Saint Matthew preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist traditionally takes place during 2nd grade. Confirmation preparation takes place during the 10th grade. If you have questions about First Reconciliation or First Eucharist contact Jackie Noll. Confirmation questions can be directed to Deanna Lustig. If a Baptism is needed please contact Pat Witt.

Calendar

We begin our year before Labor Day and end usually the first weekend in May. We have several special dates down on our calendar. We have several times a year when different grade levels present or have an activity to share with the adults during the adult session. This is a great opportunity for the children to work together and build community and a wonderful way for the adults to get to know the children and see what things are happening in their sessions.

Meet the Catechist

Each year, a session early in the year will be a time for each catechist to come in to speak to the adult group. This gives the catechist a great opportunity to have some time with the parents to share goals and thoughts and for the parents to get a feel for the progress that is made throughout the program.

Soup and Bread Supper

Family Faith Formation sponsors the Parish Soup and Bread Supper that is held every year after the Ash Wednesday evening Mass. FFF families will take care of set up, clean up and supplying all of the items needed for the supper. There will be a sign up sheet during adult sessions as the supper approaches. Families can then sign up to donate time, food product or homemade soup! All donations collected that evening go to Dr. Ellen Einterz and her mission work in Africa. Her parents are long time members of the parish.