

Family Faith Formation Full Year Program

Overview

This program helps families to participate in our faith formation program together, encourages the faith development of adults, and provides resources for parents to work with their children at home.

The Church of Epiphany firmly believes that **parents are the first and best teachers of their children** in the ways of faith by what they say and do. The parish seeks to encourage, support, and equip parents and/or other family adults (guardians/grandparents) to teach, pray, and celebrate the sacraments with the children God entrusted to their care. In this way our Catholic identity is strengthened in the current generation and is passed on to the next generation.

Since the needs of families vary widely, we offer two different models of faith formation hoping one will support your family. One such faith formation option is the **Family Faith Formation Full Year Program** which supports each parent/guardian/grandparent's vocation as the first and best teacher of their children in the ways of faith *in a very intentional way*.

Parents who register for the **Family Faith Formation Full Year Program** are provided with resources and support to assist them in facilitating lessons at home with their children. Additionally, Families will come together and attend monthly sessions for one (1) hour. Students will go to the appropriate group to review their lessons with their catechist. While the students are in their groups, parents will meet in the Worship Area for faith development in a casual interactive setting. Parent sessions include presentations, prayer, and discussions. They will also receive resources that will enable them to continue working on the lessons at home with their children.

Families who choose to teach religious education at home in an intentional and systematic way have greater opportunities to share the Catholic faith, and, guided by the Holy Spirit, to grow deeper in their relationship with God, through Jesus, together. Families facilitating Family Faith Formation have also found an additional benefit, which is the flexibility of exploring lessons at their own pace and in accordance with their particular (and sometimes challenging) schedules. As faith formation and practicing the Catholic faith becomes more deeply integrated into your family's daily life you will experience the graces of blessings of God.

Requirements:

- A family commitment to work on the home lessons with their children.
- Attendance at all monthly sessions (7 Sessions September-March) as there are no makeup sessions.
- Monthly sessions will meet once a month on a Tuesday from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. Please see the calendar for specific dates.
- Weekly attendance at Mass.
- 14 Homily Reflections with raised seal.
- Mandatory Family Liturgical sessions. 1 Advent & 1 Lenten
- Reconciliation: Attend one of the parish Penance Services or contact Religious Education to make arrangements for a Saturday afternoon.
- Second graders are required to attend all sacramental prep classes for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- 8th graders are required to attend the Confirmation Retreat, sacramental prep classes, and practice.
- A calendar of required sessions can be found on our website.

These requirements apply to all Family Faith Formation students in Grades 1-8.

The **Family Faith Formation Program Requirements & Dates** document explains the completion and expectations for all participant students/families, including the dates of the **mandatory Liturgical Events throughout the formation year.**