

How Family Faith Formation Works

Families will come together for group catechesis, enrichment, and support. We will gather together as adults and students will break off into small groups while parents continue to learn.

We have been using the online program called "My Catholic Faith Delivered." This platform allows families to work on the lessons together at a time that is convenient for that family. These lessons will supply the backbone for your and your children's spiritual formation.

***Sacramental years Grade 2 & 8 will attend bi-weekly classes.** If your child is receiving sacraments this year, an email will be sent to you with additional dates.



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Schedule

Each family will attend nine Wednesday gatherings for the year.

Wednesday 6:00PM -7:30PM

2024-2025 School year

Parent & Students Meeting Dates

Family Last Name A-L Schedule

September 4
October 9
November 6
December 11
January 8
February 5
March 12
April 2
May 7

Family Last Name M-Z Schedule

September 18
October 16
November 13
December 11
January 15
February 12
March 19
April 9
May 7

****Please Note: At least one parent must attend with their child.**



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



St. Joseph the Worker Church
<https://www.stjwchurch.org/prep>

Reverend Monsignor Victor F. Finelli, V.J., J.C.L.
Pastor

Rose Hayward
Director of Religious Education

Diana Andrews
Family Faith Formation Administrative Assistant

CHURCH DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF FAMILY CATECHESIS

Pope Francis stated in his closing Mass at the 2015 World Meeting of Families, ***"Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to become faith."***

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Parents are the principal and first educators of their children...

"The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute." The right and the duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable.

Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church)

The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children.

General Directory for Catechesis

This childhood religious awakening which takes place in the family is irreplaceable... Indeed, "family catechesis precedes ... accompanies and enriches all forms of catechesis"... Parents are the primary educators in the faith... The family is defined as a "domestic Church."

What is Family Faith Formation?

The Family Faith Formation program is a family-based catechetical program that helps families grow in the love of God by understanding and living our Catholic faith; this program brings families together.

Family Faith Formation may sound frightening or radical, but it is exactly what we as parents have always done. We, the parents teach our children to walk, talk, think, and pray. The phrase is that these lessons are more "caught" than "taught". Faith really cannot be taught it must be lived. That living begins within the family.

Why?

Our first and most significant education happens in families. This family approach will help sustain faith in our children through adulthood.

When it comes to raising children in the faith, reports consistently indicate parents matter more than any other factor.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I don't have enough time? I'm already too busy as it is!

It is a once month commitment with a flexible online program schedule. When we are doing God's work, He will provide the time.

Making the time conveys the message that "this matters to our family and is important."

What if I don't know enough?

Evangelize them! Build relationships with them, share your personal experiences, and teach them the faith. Your goal should be to get them to say, "Why didn't anyone ever teach this to me when I was growing up?" We will also give you the tools you need.

What if I fail?

Make it your own. Family Formation looks different in every family because each family is unique. Do not compare yourself to others. Build your own family traditions and identity. There is no failing.

Celebrate every victory, large or small. Slow growth is growth. It is okay for our children to see us fail. We are a family, we stick together. If something does not go as planned or expected, get up and try again! There may also be opportunities to ask for and grant forgiveness.