



## Family and Intergenerational Faith Formation Survey: *Catholic Parish Family Faith Formation Profiles*

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Prepared by Paulette Chapman and Joan Weber

In the Spring of 2023, NCCL conducted a national survey to identify how well Catholic parishes are implementing practices of family faith formation and intergenerational (all ages together) faith formation. A total of **303** Catholic parishes completed the survey. The first report presented the results of the survey findings. The second phase of the research involved follow-up with survey respondents to develop profiles of family faith formation in their parishes. All reports are available on <https://www.ncclcatholic.org>.

The “Profiles” report presents the parish profiles organized into the following categories

**1. Family Catechesis as the Primary Model for Parish Catechesis**

(Usually designed for families with children through middle school young people; and offered monthly, twice monthly, or weekly)

**2. Family Catechesis within an Intergenerational Model of Catechesis**

**3. Family Catechesis Integrated within Children’s Catechesis, including Sacramental Preparation**

**4. Seasonal Family Catechesis Gatherings**

Most parishes that conduct family catechesis utilize a learning process with five elements. There are lots of adaptations of this learning process, but the basic flow can be found in most parish models of family catechesis:

1. A shared meal
2. A shared prayer experience with all the families
3. A whole family learning experience on the topic of the program with content and methods appropriate to an all-ages audience
4. In-depth learning experience conducted in one of three ways:
  - Option 1. Whole family learning together with activities appropriate to all ages
  - Option 2. Parallel learning with learning activities for age groups and parents
  - Option 3. Learning activity centers with whole family and age-specific learning
5. A closing whole family activity to discover how to apply their learning to daily life using resources and activities provided in print or digital formats.

# Parish Profiles

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## 1. Family Catechesis as the Primary Model for Parish Catechesis

- All Saints, Lakeville, MN
- Church of Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY
- Church of the Presentation, Upper Saddle River, NJ
- Corpus Christi, Council Bluffs, IA
- Holy Infant, Durham, NC
- Most Holy Trinity, Wallingford, CT
- Our Lady of the Assumption, Brookhaven, GA
- St. Agnes & St. Camillus, Arlington, MA (Catholic Parishes of Arlington)
- St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven, PA
- St. Anthony of Padua, Wailuku, HI
- St. Barbara, Harrison City, PA
- St. Charles Borromeo, Skillman, NJ
- St. John Fisher, Marlborough, CT
- St. John the Apostle, Norwalk, IA
- St. Joseph University Parish, Buffalo, NY
- St. Julian Falconieri, Fullerton, CA
- St. Margaret, Madison, CT
- St. Mark, Fallston, MD
- St. Mary Magdalene, Newnan, GA
- St. Matthew, Windham, NH
- St. Michael, Harlan, IA
- St. Peter Chanel, Roswell, GA
- St. Pius X, Granger, IN
- St. Theresa, Kihei, HI
- St. Vincent de Paul, Stirling, NJ

## 2. Family Catechesis within an Intergenerational Model of Catechesis

- Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe, NM
- Holy Name of Jesus, Cedar Lake, IN
- Resurrection, Green Bay, WI
- St. Catherine of Siena, IA
- St. Cecilia. St. Paul, MN
- Ss. John & Paul, Altoona, IA
- St. Joseph, West Milford, NJ

## 3. Family Catechesis Integrated within Children's Catechesis (including Sacramental Preparation)

- Old St. Mary's, Chicago, IL
- St. Alphonsus, Mt. Pleasant, IA
- St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, IA
- St. John the Evangelist, Long Green Valley, Hydes, MD
- St. Joseph, Farmington, MO
- St. Margaret of Scotland, Morristown, NJ
- St. Mark, Westminster, CO
- St. Michael the Archangel, Canton, OH

## 4. Seasonal Family Catechesis Gatherings

- Holy Name of Mary, San Diego, CA
- St. Charles Borromeo, Tacoma, WA
- St. Patrick and Columbanus, Neola, IA

### Additional:

- Archdiocese of Chicago Family Catechesis
- Additional: Diocese of Lubbock Family Catechesis

# Part 1. Family Catechesis as the Primary Model for Parish Catechesis

## All Saints, Lakeville, MN

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### Contact Person

Karl Horwath, [khorwath@allsaintshchurch.com](mailto:khorwath@allsaintshchurch.com)

### Description of the Program

Family Formation at All Saints takes a family-focused, thematic-activity approach where groups of families meet monthly to encounter the Lord together and to encourage each other to live as the Domestic Church in and through their home and family life.

### Yearly Curriculum or Topics

Last year the parish focused on the Holy Bible by introducing families to the Bible, its structure and how to read the Bible, using the *Catholic Children's Bible* from St. Mary's Press. They also followed the liturgical year for some meetings when appropriate. Each month families were given suggested readings and extra tools to help them understand Sacred Scripture. Topics covered included:

- The History of the Kingdom of God
- The Holy Bible and the books that comprise it: Types of books found in the Bible; the senses of Scripture
- Prophets: How to read, key prophets, and selected readings
- Kingdom Parables: How to read and selected parables
- Geography of Israel: Regions and cities of Israel, particularly the city of Jerusalem during Holy Week.
- The Liturgical Year: Structure and key celebrations of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost through experiential prayer services

This year there will be two to three sessions on How to Read the Bible, Family Prayer, and other relevant topics.

### Frequency of Programming

Families meet monthly and are provided with at-home materials between the gathered sessions.

### Timing

Families meet once a month on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30.

### Faith Formation Website

<https://www.allsaintschurch.com/faithformation>

### Program Resources Used

Faith formation leaders stitched together a curriculum from various sources including: *Catholic Children's Bible* from St. Mary's Press, Selected Catechesis of the Good Shepherd presentations (modified for audience), *The Bible Project*, Maps and resources from [Conformingtojesus.com](http://Conformingtojesus.com)

### Digital Resources for Participants/Website

[www.Bibleproject.com](http://www.Bibleproject.com)

[www.Conformingtojesus.com](http://www.Conformingtojesus.com)

# Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY

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**Contact Person:** Laura Countryman [faithformation@hsceg.org](mailto:faithformation@hsceg.org)

**Church:** Church of the Holy Spirit, 667 Columbia Tpk, East Greenbush, NY 12061

**Faith Formation Website URL or Page on Church Website:** [www.holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.org](http://www.holyspiritchurcheg.weebly.org)

## **Description of the Program**

We currently have 2 tracks - young families and teens/adults. We use a schedule similar to college semesters: summer (July and August), fall (September - December) and spring (January - June). This coincides with our fiscal year that begins on July 1st. Prior to COVID, we were using the GOF monthly intergenerational session model. This newer method came out of having to go virtual at the beginning of COVID.

Young families meet approximately once a month for a session for our fall and spring semesters. We have a learning session that is followed up a week or two later with a Family Night. For family night, the families share their projects from the options that were given at our last session. We also had a mini-retreat for families during Lent and will add another retreat for Advent for the upcoming year. Family projects also have the option of a service project.

Adults and teens choose from a variety of sessions throughout each semester.

We also have a summer season that will have a family project. Last summer each family read a book and looked for characters that demonstrated gifts of the Holy Spirit. We shared these at the end of the summer. There were a few course options for adults and teens during the summer.

We also added a mini family retreat for Lent. We will continue to have a family friendly retreat for Advent and Lent.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

We use the liturgical year as a guide for our sessions for Church Life (younger families). For our teens and adults there is usually an overriding theme along with other sessions throughout the year. This past year our theme was *Lumen Gentium* and Vatican II. We also had a bible study, scripture discussion on the upcoming weekends readings, Black Catholic History month etc. (I will attach my last 2 years schedules.)

## **Frequency of Programming**

Church Life is approximately once a month

Simply Scripture is approximately six times per semester

We also have one time only course options throughout the semesters.

This past year we also had book groups for Advent and Lent.

## **Timing (days, times)**

Church Life is offered on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Sunday and Tuesday are virtual. Monday is in person. (Our younger families still prefer the virtual option. The conversations and discussions that the families are having are much better than when we met in person.) Family Night will have two options and are virtual since they are short gatherings to show and tell about their projects.

Most options for teens and adults have at least two options, including a daytime option for seniors.

Teen families began to prefer to meet in person when those options became available after covid. They do like the flexibility of a virtual option if the weather is bad or to make up a session if needed.

Simply Scripture is keeping the virtual option since we have a group that meets fairly consistently, and this group likes to meet virtually.

### **Program Resources Used**

Many resources and websites are used to put a session together. The CCC, Curriculum Framework for Catechetical Programs from the Diocese of Albany, Busted Halo, Dynamic Catholic, Ascension Presents, Loyola Press, Ave Explores, the USCCB, the Vatican and too many others to name.

### **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

I use many video resources: Breaking In the Habit, 3 Minute Theology (these videos seem to have been taken down recently), Dynamic Catholic, the USCCB, Ascension Presents, Busted Halo, Sunday 7pm Choir (for music), Catholic Central, Made for Glory, America Media and too many others to mention.

# Church of the Presentation, Upper Saddle River, NJ

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## **Contact Person**

Catzel LaVecchia, [catzel@churchofpresentation.org](mailto:catzel@churchofpresentation.org)

## **Description of the Program**

The parish's Family Faith Program is for families registered in the parish with children in grades 1 to 8. The program is designed to be a learning experience for both children and their parents (and sometimes grandparents)! Parish leaders recognize the calling and responsibility of parents as primary educators and role models to their children. The FFF program is here to assist parents in passing on our faith to their children. Every family is a mini-church – a domestic church. And as a parish and the Church, the parish is a family of families. The Catechism states that “The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called ‘the domestic church,’ a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.”

The mission of Church of the Presentation's faith formation is to communicate the treasures of faith to its young friends (grades 1 to 8) and to their parents. Using the Emmaus model, the parish walks with its families on a journey towards encountering Jesus in breaking open the Word (online lessons), breaking bread with the whole parish (family Mass), sharing the Good News with others in the spirit of fellowship (building community), and bringing the faith to others through acts of mission and service (act out).

Through Family Faith Formation, Church of the Presentation aims to engage children and their families to be active learners and evangelizers of our faith.

The program consists of two main parts: online weekly lessons and monthly family learning sessions. These are attended by parents, grandparents (sometimes), and children.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

Based on the Lectionary, the curriculum focuses on the Year of the Fish, Year of the Light, and Year of the Fish. (See the separate file for more information.)

## **Frequency of Programming**

There are weekly online lessons, with bi-weekly online lessons for grades 7 and 8. In addition, there are monthly family gatherings/learning sessions as well as social and spiritual events and parish-wide liturgical experiences.

## **Timing**

Families choose from Tuesday or Friday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. or Saturday from 3:00-4:30 one week a month.

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://www.churchofpresentation.org/family-faith-formation-grades-1-6/>

## **Program Resources Used**

Parish leaders write their own curriculum and design their own gatherings.

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

[www.presentationfff.org](http://www.presentationfff.org)

[www.jh.presentationfff.org](http://www.jh.presentationfff.org)

Note: both sites are password protected.



# Family Faith Formation

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION

271 West Saddle River Rd  
Upper Saddle River NJ 07458  
201-327-1313  
[www.presentationfff.org](http://www.presentationfff.org)  
[www.jh.presentationfff.org](http://www.jh.presentationfff.org)



## 2023-24 Family Faith Formation (Grades 1 to 8)

*Monthly Gatherings are MANDATORY. Families are to come together with the children enrolled in our program except in Jan. Each month, select one of the dates to attend.*

### **September**

Kickoff Mass, September 16, Saturday at 5:00pm or September 17, Sunday at either 8:00am, 10:00am, 11:30am or 6:30pm

### **October**

October 10, 11, 12, 13 (Tues-Fri), 6-7:30pm or October 14 (Sat) 3-4:30 pm

### **November**

November 14, 15, 16, 17 (Tues-Fri), 6-7:30pm or November 18 (Sat) 3-4:30pm

### **December - Attend one of the parish events to fulfill your December requirement:**

Dec 3, Sunday at 10am Mass - *Let's Celebrate St Nick's*

Dec 9, Saturday at 8:30am and 10am - *Breakfast with St Nick\* (ticket required)*

Dec 10, Sunday at 10am Mass - *Our Lady of the Guadalupe Mass*

Dec 10, Sunday at 3pm - *Christmas Concert\* (ticket required)*

\*Purchase tickets  
in the parish office

Dec 17, Saturday at 5pm Mass - *The Nativity Story*

Dec 18, Monday at 7:00pm - *Pardon and Peace*

### **January—Parent's only session**

January 16, 17, 18, 19 (Tues-Fri), 6-7:30pm; January 20 (Sat) 3-4:30pm

### **February**

February 20, 21, 22, 23 (Tues-Fri), 6-7:30pm; February 24 (Sat) 3-4:30pm

### **March - Attend one of the Holy Week Services to fulfill your March requirement:**

March 24, Sunday at 10am Mass - *Palm Sunday*

March 26, Monday at 7pm - *Pardon & Peace*

March 28, Holy Thursday at 7:30pm - *The Lord's Supper Liturgy*

March 29, Good Friday at 3pm - *Veneration of the Cross*

March 29, Good Friday at 7:30pm - *Youth Ministry Living Stations*

March 30, Holy Saturday, 7:30pm - *Easter Vigil Mass*

### **April**

April 16, 17, 18, 19 (Tues-Fri), 6-7:30pm; April 20 (Sat) 3-4:30pm

### **May**

May 14, 15, 16, 17 (Tues-Fri), 6-7:30pm; May 18 (Sat) 3-4:30pm

**\*\*Our Family Mass is at the 10am Mass on the first Sunday of the month\*\***

# Corpus Christi, Council Bluffs, IA

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**Contact Person:** Kendall McGrath; [faithformation@corpuschristiia.com](mailto:faithformation@corpuschristiia.com)

## **Description of the Program**

Families meet once a month to complete family focused activities. Students and parents meet weekly the rest of the month for sacramental preparation or age-appropriate classes. Adoration is offered monthly for parents and one grade level.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

2023-24 – Christian Prayer

2022-23 – The Sacraments

2021-22 – Life in Christ

2020-21 – The Creed

## **Frequency of Programming**

Weekly, September – May

## **Timing (days, times)**

Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm

## **Faith Formation Website URL**

<https://corpuschristiparishiowa.org/religious-education>

## **Program Resources Used**

*A Family of Faith* from Sophia Institute



# Holy Infant, Durham, NC

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## Contact Person

Michalene Sutton, [msutton@holyinfantchurch.org](mailto:msutton@holyinfantchurch.org)

## Description of the Program

Participants meet two to three times a month as a community. All start together and end together as a group. On the first and second Sundays of the month, parents and children participate in age-appropriate breakout formation sessions (children go to age-appropriate classrooms, adults stay together for adult formation). On the third Sunday of the month, parents and children participate in a service project together focused on a corporal work of mercy. These are known as the parish's Mercy Sundays. Faith formation leaders have patterned with both Peace & Social Justice ministries within the parish as well as organizations outside the parish to complete Service Projects. Past service projects include: stuffing stockings with toiletries for a low-income senior living facility; making suncatchers for sick and homebound parishioners; making "Everything but the Turkey Boxes" for the local food pantry; harvesting and mulching in the parish's Food Justice Garden; and making ABC blocks for a local homeless shelter for pregnant women and new mothers.

Families also receive Weekly Home Lessons that keep the conversations that began at the parish during Family Formation sessions going through the rest of the week.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

- 2023-2024: The Sacraments (The Mass, Baptism, Confirmation, Vocations, Sacraments of Healing, The Creed, Mary)
- 2022-2023: The Liturgical Year, The Saints, Nativity & Incarnation, True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, Evangelization, Stations of the Cross, God the Father
- 2021-2022: The Bible, The Final Coming, God's Promises (Prophecies), Salesian Spirituality (the parish is staffed by OSFS), Apostolic Succession, Sacrament of Reconciliation, O Most Holy Week

This cycle repeats every three years, so that children receive it once at the primary level and once at the intermediate level.

## Frequency of Programming

Families gather two to three times a month.

## Timing

Families gather on Sunday mornings between the 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. liturgies. Family Formation takes place from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m., allowing families to attend either of the Sunday masses.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://holyinfantchurch.org/family-formation>

## Program Resources Used

The parish uses *Family Formation* by Church of St. Paul, *Formed.org*, and *Families Forming Disciples* out of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

While the parish doesn't use digital resources that are outward facing, the faith formation leader sends families lots of internal newsletters with resources for what was talked about the previous Sunday, resources for living liturgically for the time of year, and other relevant materials.

# Most Holy Trinity, Wallingford, CT

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**Contact Person:**

Tracy Sommo Blum, [director@mhtwallingfordfaithformation.com](mailto:director@mhtwallingfordfaithformation.com)

**Description of the Program**

Faith formation at Most Holy Trinity focuses on each family's and each person's relationship with Jesus and his powerful effect on their lives. Moving more intentionally toward Christ and the faith community is the goal. The emphasis is on lifelong faith formation and the key role parents play in their children's faith. Faith formation offers the support and resources parents need to share faith in Jesus effectively.

**Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

In Year 1, we focused on the Church Year. Year 2 will focus on the Sacraments and Prayer, with a special tie to the Eucharistic Revival.

**Frequency of Programming**

Families meet the first week of every month. Children meet the third week of every month. In the second and fourth weeks, families are encouraged to use the online at-home resources found on the parish website.

**Timing (days, times)**

The choices families are Sunday following the 9:00 a.m. Mass, Monday from 6:00-8:00 p.m., or Thursday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Spanish/Bilingual).

**Faith Formation Website URL**

<https://sites.google.com/mhtwallingfordfaithformation.com/mhtwallingfordfaithformation/home?pli=1>

**Program Resources Used**

The parish uses Intergenerational Faith plus free resources from book publishers, etc.

# Our Lady of the Assumption, Brookhaven, GA

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## Contact Person

Elizabeth Piper, [epiper@olachurch.org](mailto:epiper@olachurch.org)

## Description of the Program

*Families Forming Disciples* is a hybrid, family-focused, thematic-activity approach where groups of families meet with catechists (in-person or virtually) to encounter the Lord together and to encourage each other to live as the Domestic Church in and through their home and family life.

The Office of Evangelization and Discipleship of the Archdiocese of Atlanta offers *Families Forming Disciples* as a specific way to assist parish catechetical leaders, catechists, and parents/families by seeking to engage families in renewed ways, to advance family evangelization and faith formation.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

Year 1 = Building the domestic Church

Year 2 = What's the Story? God's Word & Our Response (sacred history)

Year 3 = What's the Story? God's Word & Our Response Part II the New Testament

Year 4 = The sacraments

Year 5 = TBA

## Frequency of Programming

Families meet monthly as a big group for formation for Week 1. In Week 2, families do a mission/activity at home from the lesson plan provided. Week 3 has small community groups meeting off-campus in homes or parks. The lesson plan is on the website for these meetings. Families are invited to build community. Each month the parish has Formation, Mission, and Community time together.

## Timing (days, times)

Sunday from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://www.evangelizationatl.com/families-forming-disciples>

## Program Resources Used

*Families Forming Disciples*

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

All material and digital sites are in the lesson plan with links. Including videos and craft ideas.

# St. Agnes & St. Camillus, Arlington, MA

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## Contact Person

Meredith Smith, [msmith@cparl.org](mailto:msmith@cparl.org)

## Description of the Program

The parishes of St. Agnes and St. Camillus use an entirely family-based model of Faith Formation. Families have at-home family meetings as well as monthly at-church gatherings. The Faith Formation process begins with an annual parent visit in which the Director of Faith Formation gets to know the families and their needs and how the parish can best serve their family.

The Faith Formation pathway looks a bit different for each family depending on their needs and where they are in their formation pathway. This is not a “one size fits all” program. The parishes put their emphasis on accompaniment and relationships with their families. They also emphasize readiness to celebrate sacraments versus "getting" a sacrament because of being in a certain grade.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

The first year that a family joins the Progressive Faith Formation program, the parishes use two resources from Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries (FFLCM) - *Seek* and *Root*. *Seek* is a four-session kerygmatic experience, and *Root* includes six at-home, six at-church, and six parent mini-series based on the Creed. This is for any family new to the program, whether they are seeking sacraments or not.

After the first year, the family will either move into either Sacramental Prep or Ongoing Faith Formation. For Sacramental Prep for Reconciliation and the Eucharist, the program used is *Blessed* by Dynamic Catholic. The family completes the prep entirely at home and the family meets with the Director of Faith Formation to request the sacrament and show readiness. (The parishes will probably transition to *Mend* and *Nourish* for these sacraments in the next couple of years. They are from FFLCM as well.)

Sacramental Prep for Confirmation families uses *Zeal* from FFLCM. There are two tracks, one for young people in grades 6-9 and another for young people in grades 9-12. Both use *Zeal*, one the family box and one the teen version. Young people preparing to celebrate Confirmation will also meet with the Director of Faith Formation before beginning *Zeal* and before entering Immediate Prep. Immediate Prep uses *Never Alone*, a four-part series which can be found on [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org).

For ongoing Faith Formation (families not in Sacramental Prep), other programs from FFLCM are used. This fall, the parishes will begin the *Year of Wonder*, which is about the parables. After the *Year of Wonder*, we will move to *Quest*, which is about prayer. They intend to continue with FFLCM resources for ongoing formation as they are written.

## Frequency of Programming

Families gather monthly, with a few exceptions. *Seek* is done over two months instead of four so it occurs twice monthly. Intergenerational gatherings are extra, with events for Advent, Lent, Easter, and Summer Ordinary Time. With the exception of *Seek*, families have at least one at-home family meeting each month as well.

Families in Ongoing Formation gather monthly, some months with all families in the ongoing program and some months with their Village (small group of families).

## Timing (days, times)

Faith formation happens on Sunday mornings. Families have two options, one at each parish, between the Sunday morning Masses. *Zeal* for teens is on Sunday evening.

**Faith Formation Website**

<https://cparl.org/faith-formation>

**Program Resources Used**

Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries - *Seek, Root, Zeal for Teens, Zeal, Wonder, Quest*, and Dynamic Catholic's *Blessed*

**Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

The faith formation team uses the Martha Portal from FFLCM for some of the programs.

# St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven, PA

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## Contact Person

Mary Ellen Johns, [stambroseprep@comcast.net](mailto:stambroseprep@comcast.net)

## Description of the Program

A Family of Faith seeks to strengthen families as children learn the joys of following Jesus and the truths of the Catholic Faith through the witness given by their parents/guardians. Through monthly gatherings and print materials, parents/guardians receive everything they need to explore and to share the Catholic Faith at home. The goals of the A Family of Faith program are 1) to encourage and equip parents/guardians to fulfill their God-given duty and privilege of educating their children in the Faith; 2) to support and nurture strong Catholic families who image the Blessed Trinity; 3) to provide parents/guardians the opportunity for continued growth in the Faith; 4) to build community and celebrate Catholic life together.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

St. Ambrose follows a Four-Year Cycle:

- Year 1: Profession of Faith (Creed)
- Year II: Sacraments
- Year III: The Life in Christ
- Year IV: Christian Prayer

## Frequency of Programming

Families gather monthly in the parish, with additional seasonal gatherings for Advent, Lent, and the End-of-Year session.

## Timing

Family Gatherings are held on Sunday morning from 9:40 to 11:00. Seasonal Gatherings occur on Sundays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://www.stambrosehaven.com/a-family-of-faith-yr-4>

## Program Resources Used

The parish uses the Sophia Institute's *A Family of Faith*.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

The parish uses various videos within the family gatherings, including selections from Ascension Press, Augustine Institute, YouTube, and the Br. Francis Adventure Catechism.

The parish Family Formation webpage contains a video catalog which provides videos for children and adults related to the monthly topics.

# St. Anthony of Padua, Wailuku, HI

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**Contact Person:** Tanya Barbero; [tbarbero@rcchawaii.org](mailto:tbarbero@rcchawaii.org)

## **Description of the Program**

The parish is in its second year of family formation. All children and families attend Family Faith Formation sessions called Hui 'Ohana (family meeting) two Sundays a month, between the Masses. All parishioners are also invited. On alternating Sundays, parents and children involved in sacramental preparation meet at church. Parents use *A Family of Faith* to catechize their children on their own schedule.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

2023-24 – The Sacraments

## **Frequency of Programming**

Families meet twice a month in person. Parents are provided a parent lesson video at the beginning of the month with information to support their efforts catechizing their children at home during the month.

## **Timing (days, times)**

Family Faith Formation 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 8:00 to 9:15 a.m.

Sacramental Preparation 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 8:00 to 9:15 a.m.

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://www.stanthonymaui.org/faith-formation>

## **Program Resources Used**

- In planning the bi-weekly family gatherings, the parish draws from websites such as TPT (Teacher Pay Teachers), Catholic Icing, Real Life at Home and other sources.
- Parents use *A Family of Faith* from Sophia Institute to catechize their children at home, on their own schedule.
- *Together in Jesus* (Restored Order) from Pflaum is used for sacramental preparation.

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

A monthly parent video is available on our parish website.

Use of FORMED.org for personal growth and faith formation is encouraged.

# St. Barbara, Harrison City, PA

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## Contact Person

Joan Duncan, [JDuncan@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:JDuncan@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

## Description of the Program

Foundations of Faith is the formation program at Saint Barbara. It is an intergenerational model that includes learning for the entire family. The parish's family faith formation program went through a bit of transformation this past year. Families currently meet twice a month. The first meeting includes dinner and the families staying together to do the learning. The second meeting is without dinner and the children are split into their age-appropriate levels, beginning in Pre-K 4 through 5th grade. At the same time, the adults have a session with a speaker on the topic for the month.

While participation is open to all parishioners, it is expected that all families with children from Pre-K to Grade 5 will participate.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

The parish follows the pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: Prayer, Creed, Sacraments, and Morality. They also cover the Liturgical year. This year St. Barbara is doing a year-long study of the Mass in conjunction with the Eucharistic revival.

2023-24 we will be learning about the Mass in conjunction with the Eucharistic Revival

2022-23 - Prayer

2021-22 - Sacraments

## Frequency of Programming

Foundations of Faith is held twice a month from October to April. Families can choose either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening to participate.

## Timing

The Foundations of Faith sessions happen on Tuesday or Wednesday evening twice a month. The first monthly session (including dinner) begins at 5:30. The other session begins at 6:30, and both sessions end at 8:00 p.m.

## Faith Formation Website URL

<https://www.stbarbara.org/foundations/>

<https://www.stbarbara.org/foundations/>

## Program Resources Used

The parish uses Fashioning Faith as well as other websites and many years of gathered materials. The faith formation leader also uses the *People of Faith* series as a reference.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

The parish doesn't send particular websites to the participants.



# St. Charles Borromeo, Skillman, NJ

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## Contact Person

Cathy Souto, [csouto@borromeo.org](mailto:csouto@borromeo.org)

## Description of the Program

The parish uses a family faith formation model. Families with children in Grades 1 through 6 meet twice per month with two choices of days and times. Sessions are one hour in length. Confirmation youth meet separately. There are additional sessions for children and their parents who are preparing for First Communion.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

While there is much overlap, the parish rotates themes each year. The 2019-2024 schedule is as follows:

2023-2024 – Catholic Social Teaching  
2022-2023 – Prayer  
2021-2022 – New Testament  
2020-2021 – Old Testament  
2019-2022 – Sacraments

The parish has also covered Moral Teaching, the Liturgical Year, Following Jesus, and The Creed.

## Frequency of Programming

Families meet twice per month from October through early May.

## Timing

Families choose Sundays following the 10:00 a.m. Mass or Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. First Communion candidates and their parents meet on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and then attend the 10:00 Mass. Confirmation youth attend the 11:30 Sunday Mass and then gather for their faith formation sessions.

## Faith Formation Website UR

<https://www.borromeogift.org/>

## Program Resources Used

The parish utilizes <https://www.intergenerationalfaith.com/> for most of its resources.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

See above website.

# St. John Fisher, Marlborough, CT

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## Contact Person

Melissa Jordan, [salvia601@aol.com](mailto:salvia601@aol.com)

## Description of the Program

St. John Fisher does family-based faith formation for Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The first week of each month the parish offers a Saturday or Tuesday evening session for families and all interested parishioners which begins with a shared meal, then moves on to large and small group activities, group prayer, and discussion. The second week of each month families are encouraged to do activities and family challenges at home which the faith formation office provides during the first week's gathering. During the third week, the parish hosts a virtual story time which is conducted by guest readers. In the last week, the 10:30 Mass is a family Mass with different families serving as greeters, gift bearers and passing out bulletins. A reception follows. Families also commit to praying together on a daily basis.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

The parish just completed its first year of this program. The topic was the Church Year. In 2023-2024, faith formation will focus on a journey through the Bible.

## Frequency of Programming

Families meet twice a month at the parish and do faith formation at home during the second week each month. There is a monthly Sunday Mass for families.

## Timing

Families can choose from Tuesday and Saturday for the gathered sessions.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://www.stjfffaithformation.org/family-faith-formation-kindergarten-8th-grade.html>

## Program Resources Used

The faith formation team uses many different resources provided by the Education Office of the Archdiocese of Hartford, ideas which Melissa researches on her own, and *Illustrated Ministry* monthly resources.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

Illustrated Ministry: <https://www.illustratedministry.com/>

# St. John the Apostle, Norwalk, IA

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**Contact Person:**

Fr. Dan Kirby, [dankirbystjohns@hotmail.com](mailto:dankirbystjohns@hotmail.com)

**Description of the Program**

Parish Family Nights (PFN) will meet 1-2 times a month throughout the school year, from 6-7:30. This is our program for everyone in the parish, where we have a meal and a teaching. We will have a lesson for adults and have something for children in different parts of the church. All households are invited to this, including single people, married with or without kids, empty nesters, seniors – everyone!

**Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

Mass, Blessed Mother, Saints, Advent, Eucharistic Miracles, Adoration, Lent

**Frequency of Programming**

1-2 times per month

**Timing (days, times)** Wednesdays, 6-7:30

**Faith Formation Website**

<https://www.stjohnsnorwalk.org/religious-education>

**Program Resources Used** Varied

**Digital Resources for Participants/Website** Varied

# St. Joseph University Parish, Buffalo, NY

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## Contact Person

Diane Brennan; [dbrennan@stjosephbuffalo.org](mailto:dbrennan@stjosephbuffalo.org)

## Description of the Program

The mission of St. Joseph University Parish Lifelong Faith Formation is to help provide adults and families with opportunities to grow in their faith life. The program helps parents continue their faith journey while guiding their children to be disciples. Everyone is encouraged to be lifelong learners of the faith through the active life of the parish, weekly Mass attendance, instruction and through service by connecting what we believe to how we live as disciples of Jesus Christ. In addition to Family Sundays for households with children in grades 1 –8, high school FF is offered along with youth ministry, middle school ministry and other peer models, offering opportunities for service and prayer, and using technology regularly to connect.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

The program is lectionary based so it follows the liturgical cycle, adding in the saints, the seasons, the opportunity to do service, and the life cycle of the diocese and the community.

## Frequency of Programming

The program had met monthly and weekly until this year. Starting this year, there is a monthly gathering and a monthly service project.

## Timing

Households with elementary aged children gather one Sunday a month between two of the Masses. Half of the households meet on one Sunday and the other half on a different Sunday to accommodate everyone. Teens in the household are invited to join as helpers. Sacramental preparation meets on Thursday nights.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://stjosephbuffalo.org/adult-faith-formation/>

<https://stjosephbuffalo.org/youth-formation/>

## Program Resources Used

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies and *The Catholic Youth Bible* and *The Catholic Faith Handbook*; Our Sunday Visitor resources for sacramental preparation

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies

The parish uses the app, BAND, to send a weekly e-newsletter with family resources from Pflaum, links to the Sunday Connection from Loyola Press, parish updates, etc.

# St. Julian Falconieri, Fullerton, CA

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## **Contact Person**

James Abowd, [james.abowd@stjulianachurch.org](mailto:james.abowd@stjulianachurch.org)

## **Description of the Program**

We use Pathways from Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministry.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

Year One: ROOT (Creed) and WONDER (Parables)

Year Two: (sacramental year) MEND (Reconciliation) and NOURISH (Eucharist)

Year Three – Five: rotations through MERCY (works of mercy), WITNESS (saints, fruits of the Spirit), and QUEST (prayer life)

## **Frequency of Programming**

Home program weekly by the parents

Monthly family ministry with the whole family

## **Timing**

For the home program, the family engages on their own time following the program schedule

Monthly family Sundays meet from 12 – 1:30 p.m.

## **Faith Formation Website**

[https://www.stjulianachurch.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=171562&type=d&pREC\\_ID=353307](https://www.stjulianachurch.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=171562&type=d&pREC_ID=353307)

## **Program Resources Used**

Pathways from Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministry

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

MARTHA teaching portal from Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries

Monthly Faith and Family newsletter:

[https://www.stjulianachurch.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=2928380&type=d&pREC\\_ID=2337205](https://www.stjulianachurch.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=2928380&type=d&pREC_ID=2337205)

# St. Margaret, Madison, CT

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## Contact Persons

Chris McSweeney and Nancy Hoban, [religious.education@stmargarechurch.com](mailto:religious.education@stmargarechurch.com)

## Description of the Program

Faith Formation classes meet every other week (families pick which day works with their schedule) from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Every fourth Sunday of the month, the parish celebrates with a Family Mass at 9:30 a.m. Family events are scheduled throughout the year where parishioners come together as a faith community.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

Family events are usually based on the Liturgical year:

- Backpack Blessing Mass
- Pet Blessing
- Advent Wreath Making
- Christmas Tree and Creche Blessing
- Christmas Family Movie Night
- Middle School Prayer Night
- Family Stations of the Cross
- Sacramental Retreats (4)
- May Crowning

The 2023-24 year kicks off with a Pizza and Prayer evening.

## Frequency of Programming

Classes are held every other week from October to April. There are also family events scheduled monthly.

## Timing

Families choose Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30 every other week. The Family Events occur monthly, with the dates varying. The Family Mass is typically held on the last Sunday of the month.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://stmargarechurch.com/faith-formation-for-gr-1-8/>

## Program Resources Used

The parish uses the Pflaum *Gospel Weeklies* and various websites.

# St. Mark, Fallston, MD

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## Contact Person

Barbara Austin, [baustin@saintmarkfallston.org](mailto:baustin@saintmarkfallston.org)

## Description of the Program

Families meet twice a month either on a Sunday or Wednesday for two hours. They share a meal together, experience opening prayer, and have a family activity. Parents then pray over their children before the children move to classrooms with catechists. The parents stay in small groups in the auditorium for catechesis, videos, and small group discussions. Children then rejoin their parents, have a saint presentation, and close with prayer.

In the summer, the parish offers a family retreat. The 2023 curriculum included:

### Friday June 9, 2023

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Adoration and Confession

### Saturday June 10, 2023

9:00 Arrival/Check-in/Breakfast

9:30-10:00 Prayer Module

10:00-11:00 Discussion on Creation & Animal Demonstration

11:00-12:00 Family creation of the rosary path garden

12:00-12:45 Family Lunch

12:45-1:30 Escape Rooms

1:30-3:45 Stations Outside

4:00-5:00 Family Mass

5:00-5:30 Eucharistic Procession for Corpus Christi

5:30-6:30 Family Dinner

6:30-7:30 Couple Talk/Kids Saint Video

7:30-8:30 Family Campfire

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

Last year the parents went through *The Art of Living* by Dr. Edward Sri. It is based on the four cardinal virtues. This year the parish is combining *The Search* from the Augustine Institute and *Because God is Real* by Peter Kreeft. Faith formation leaders create their own curriculum for the parents because there is not enough already created. Everything they have presented has been designed to be used again by them or someone else.

## Frequency of Programming

Families meet twice a month, on either Sunday or Wednesday

## Timing

The Sunday sessions are from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00. On Wednesdays, families meet from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://saintmarkfallston.org/family-faith-formation-registration>

## Program Resources Used

The parish creates its own curriculum. In addition, children use *The Word of Life* from the Augustine Institute. Parents will be using *The Search* from the Augustine Institute and *Because God is Real* by Peter Kreeft this year.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

The parish uses Formed.org for video resources for parents.

# St. Mary Magdalene, Newnan, GA

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## Contact Person

Pixie Smith, [psmith@smmcatholic.org](mailto:psmith@smmcatholic.org)

## Description of the Program

The parish uses the Archdiocese of Atlanta's *Families Forming Disciples*, which is a hybrid, family-focused, thematic-activity approach where groups of families meet with catechists (in-person or virtually) to encounter the Lord together and to encourage each other to live as the Domestic Church in and through their home and family life.

The Office of Evangelization and Discipleship of the Archdiocese of Atlanta offers *Families Forming Disciples* as a specific way to assist parish catechetical leaders, catechists, and parents/families by seeking to engage families in renewed ways, to advance family evangelization and faith formation.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

Year 1 was The Liturgical Year.

Year 2 was The Old Testament.

Year 3 was the New Testament through the lens of the Rosary.

Year 4 is Liturgy and the Seven Sacraments.

## Frequency of Programming

The program is designed for two sessions per month with a "Mission Week" in between the two sessions. This can be done with both sessions in-person or virtual. St. Mary Magdalene has chosen to have families meet once in person and once virtually each month.

## Timing

Currently families gather on Sundays between the two Masses from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Last year the parish also offered Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://www.smmcatholic.org/faith-formation/faith-formation-registration/>

## Program Resources Used

Archdiocese of Atlanta: <https://www.evangelizationatl.com/families-forming-disciples>

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

See above.



# St. Matthew, Windham, NH

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## Contact Person

Colleen Strang, [familyfaith@stmattwind.org](mailto:familyfaith@stmattwind.org)

## Description of the Program

Parents (adults) meet once a month to frontload the information that families will be learning at home. Families then meet once a month to go through the material and break open the upcoming Sunday Gospel reading. The program uses Sophia Press Institute's *A Family of Faith* for its curriculum.

The parish also offers Stations of the Cross, Living Stations of the Cross, and opportunities for community service to its families.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

*A Family of Faith* rotates on a four-year cycle, in line with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The four areas of focus are the Creed, Sacraments, Life in Christ, and Prayer. The parish supplements the learning by breaking open the Word with upcoming Gospel readings. Families are also taught about the liturgical year.

## Frequency of Programming

Adults meet once a month to frontload the information being learned at home during the month. Then the families meet once a month to process what they learned.

## Timing

The parish offers two choices for the adult sessions (Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. or Sunday at 10:30 a.m.). Families are offered three choices for the family sessions (Friday at 5:30 p.m., Friday at 7:00 p.m., or Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Parish leadership finds that these times work out well.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://www.stmatthew-nh.org/a-family-of-faith>

## Program Resources Used

The parish is using *A Family of Faith* from Sophia Press.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

The parish uses digital videos from Sophia Press on Sketchpad.

# St. Michael, Harlan, IA

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**Contact Person**

Rhonda Buck, [dre@stmichaelparish.com](mailto:dre@stmichaelparish.com)

**Description of the Program:**

The parish offers a family faith formation program, in which parents and children in grades K-6 gather once a month at the parish and then work with the material at home the rest of the month.

**Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

2021 – 2023 Family Formation, Church of St. Paul

2023-24 Word of Life

**Frequency of Programming**

Monthly

**Timing**

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

**Faith Formation Website**

[www.stmichaelparish.com](http://www.stmichaelparish.com)

**Program Resources Used**

Word of Life

Formed

**Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

Word of Life

Formed

# St. Peter Chanel, Roswell, GA

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## Contact Person

Shannon Civetta, [scivetta@stpeterchanel.org](mailto:scivetta@stpeterchanel.org)

## Description of the Program

The parish faith formation is in transition as leaders study additional ways to address families as a parish and begin to create a five-year strategic plan backed by outside research and a parish family survey. Currently they are in Year Six of offering Family Faith Formation for families with K-6<sup>th</sup> graders (older and younger siblings are also welcome). In the past, the parish separated children into age-appropriate classes while the parents stayed together. Parents and children came together for a brief time and for breakfast. Currently, families are remaining together for the entire session in small family communities which are based on schools/zip codes.

Families meet monthly on Sunday mornings and the parish provides at-home Family Explorations which support the in-person sessions. Parents are provided with additional family Advent and Lenten activities, with the curriculum emerging from the liturgical calendar. This year there will be additional monthly family Fridays.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

In previous years, faith formation leaders have created a curriculum of sessions and at-home explorations, with the themes of The Mass, The Bible, Sacraments, and Our Catholic Identity. This year they are using *Growing Up Catholic Faith Stories* with a focus on the life of Christ. They will also incorporate appropriate Eucharistic Revival topics.

## Frequency of Programming

The parish offers families four choices, each meeting monthly for seven months. Additional monthly family activities are available, and there are two special Advent and four special Lenten Family Gatherings.

## Timing

Families meet on Sundays (before or after Mass) from 9:00 to 10:30 or 10:45 to 12:15. Family activities are planned for Friday evenings or Saturday mornings.

## Faith Formation Website

[www.Stpeterchanel.org/faithformation](http://www.Stpeterchanel.org/faithformation)

## Program Resources Used

Most resources have been created in-house, but the parish is looking to curate more than create moving forward. They are utilizing the Pastoral Center's *Growing Up Catholic—Faith Stories* this year.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

They are investigating Catholic HOM for future use, along with other potential resources

# St. Pius X, Granger, IN

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## **Contact Person**

Robby Kiley, [rkiley@stpius.net](mailto:rkiley@stpius.net)

## **Description of the Program**

The parish offers monthly in-person learning for children and their parents (with childcare offered for younger children), and then supported learning at home for the remainder of the month using *Christ our Life* from Loyola Press.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

Faith formation has utilized all four years of the Loyola curriculum: Four Pillars of the Catechism plus New Evangelization; Advent/Christmas; Lent/Easter; and Safe Environment/Stewardship.

## **Frequency of Programming**

Gathered programming occurs once a month, with at-home learning between sessions.

## **Timing**

Families gather on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. or the third Thursday from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

## **Faith Formation Website**

[www.stpius.net/familycat](http://www.stpius.net/familycat)

## **Program Resources Used**

The parish uses *Christ Our Life* from Loyola Press.

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

<https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/christ-our-life/christ-our-life-2016/family-catechesis-resources/>

# St. Theresa, Kihei, HI

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**Contact Person:** Karen Powers; [kpowers@rcchawaii.org](mailto:kpowers@rcchawaii.org)

## **Description of the Program**

Families gather in community, including parents, grandparents, and children.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

- 2023-24: “Forming Families” by Dr. Kathie Amidei, along with take home “MagnifiKids” and “Awaken” weekly for children and adults
- 2022-23: “Our Family Faith” from RCL Benziger, as well as take home Pflaum “Gospel Weeklies”

## **Frequency of Programming**

Monthly, September through May

## **Timing**

Sundays between the morning Masses – 8:15am to 9:15am.

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://www.saint-theresa.com/religious-education>

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

- Instagram account for families
- Instagram account for youth group
- Facebook page

# St. Vincent de Paul, Stirling, NJ

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## **Contact Person**

Deirdre Nemeth, [dnemeth@stvincentschurch.org](mailto:dnemeth@stvincentschurch.org)

## **Description of the Program**

Faith formation begins with Sunday Mass followed by a 30-minute family faith session. Families with first through sixth graders meet, and families with seventh and eighth graders meet separately. Sometimes the family faith sessions are longer (one hour or more), but the parish tries generally to stick with 30 minutes after Mass. This format has brought the most success with getting families to come to both Mass and class. The concept is spreading in the Diocese of Paterson and Metuchen (in New Jersey).

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

While too broad to list, the family faith sessions center on the Gospel and Church seasons.

## **Frequency of Programming**

Families come to Mass each Sunday and family faith is two to three times each month. Also included are simple family home assignments, often involving the Bible.

## **Timing**

Faith formation is always on Sundays, with sessions built around the Sunday liturgy.

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://stvincentschurch.org/1st-8th-faith-formation-overview>

## **Program Resources Used**

Ignatius Press' *Faith & Life Series* is used with families with first and second graders. Loyola Press is used for Confirmation, and Ascension Press for middle school. St. Mary's Press has the Bible timeline used. The parish has utilized many other resources, including good books to choose from. As for the family faith session, almost all of the family faith sessions have been created by Deirdre Nemeth.

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

During the pandemic, the parish used Ascension Press' TOB, but not since.

# Part 2. Family Catechesis within an Intergenerational Model of Parish Catechesis

## Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Santa Fe, NM

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### **Contact Person**

Joann C. Reier, [rec@cbsfa.org](mailto:rec@cbsfa.org)

### **Description of the Program**

Our program is for all who desire Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation. We meet once a month for a “Faith Formation Night” beginning with food for everyone followed by activities related to the topic for the evening.

### **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

Last year, our topics included: ST. FRANCIS, LITURGICAL YEAR, ADVENT., LAS POSADAS, BAPTISM OF THE LORD and LENT/EASTER.

This year, the Eucharistic Revival will be what we focus on, along with ADVENT, LAS POSADAS, CHRISTMAS, LENT and EASTER.

### **Frequency of Programming**

Monthly

### **Timing**

Monday evenings from 6-8 PM

### **Faith Formation Website**

[www.cbsfa.org](http://www.cbsfa.org)

### **Program Resources Used**

Loyola Press and Fashioning Faith

# Holy Name of Jesus, Cedar Lake, IN

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## Contact Person

Mercedes Austgen, [mercedes@holynamecl.org](mailto:mercedes@holynamecl.org)

## Description of the Program

Generations of Faith is a monthly event centered experience for all in the parish. We mostly have families with children of catechetical age.

Generations of Faith is the intergenerational (family) faith formation open to anyone in the parish. Holy Name offers lifelong faith formation for the entire parish. The families of children celebrating the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation are required to participate to begin preparation for these sacraments.

## Description of the Program

The parish offers nine monthly intergenerational sessions that vary in format with the theme. The format usually begins with a snack, an introduction to the topic, a prayer experience, breakout sessions in age groups, and coming back together for a closing experience.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

Faith formation leaders pull from each of the six pillars each year. They also include at least one session that is topical (for example, the Synod on Synodality) and one that directly puts the participants in a feast or celebration (for example, Las Posadas). The parish rotates content on a six-year cycle.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

We pull one topic from each of the Pillars of the Church and one session is usually on a topical subject, i.e. Synod. The cycle then repeats (loosely) every 6 years. We try as much as possible to connect Generations of Faith sessions to the bigger life of the church. We will have a session on Corpus Christi to celebrate the Eucharistic Renewal.

## Frequency of Programming

Intergenerational sessions occur monthly from September to May.

## Timing

The sessions are offered twice each month. Participants can choose to attend on Sunday morning from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. or Monday evening from 6:15-8:15 p.m.

## Faith Formation Website

[www.holynamecl.org/gof](http://www.holynamecl.org/gof)

## Program Resources Used

The parish uses resources from Fashioning Faith and develops some sessions in-house.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

We have some resources for home use on our website, but we have not curated digitally very much. We do have access to on-line Pflaum Gospel weeklies again this year. (We took last year off as it was not being used. We plan to give better instruction on how to access and use these resources.)

The parish uses the Pflaum *Gospel Weeklies* site. Faith formation leaders are still working on this going forward. There is a list of curated sources on the parish website that they direct people to for different church seasons.



# Resurrection, Green Bay, Wi

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## **Contact Person**

Tony Pichler, [tpichler@gbres.org](mailto:tpichler@gbres.org)

## **Description of the Program**

Generations of Disciples Nights are an intergenerational program which unites the parish community from kindergarten to adulthood. As the parish website states, parishioners are invited to “Experience the joy of shared moments and age-tailored sessions nurturing your lifelong connection with our Catholic faith.” G.O.D. isn't just a program. It's a lifelong quest of discovery and growth in the Catholic faith. It's an experience where traditions meet innovation, and bonds of faith and community flourish like never before.

In addition to the evening sessions, monthly Service Saturdays are offered from 10:00 a.m. until noon from August to May.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

This year's focus is *Sacraments as Moments of Grace* in our lives.

## **Frequency of Programming**

Generations of Disciples Nights occur on a monthly basis from October to April.

## **Timing**

G.O.D. nights are from 6:00-7:30 on Wednesday.

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://www.gbres.org/god>

# St. Catherine of Siena, Des Moines, IA

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## **Contact Person**

Laura Catherine Carruthers-Green, [lauracatherine.green@gmail.com](mailto:lauracatherine.green@gmail.com)

## **Description of the Program**

Encounter is our monthly parish-wide intergenerational faith formation program. Encounter is not just for families with school-age children; it's for everyone! Encounter begins with a shared meal followed by a variety of faith formation activities designed for all ages and stages of life and faith journeys.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

2023-24 – The Mass

2022-23 – Prayer

## **Frequency of Programming**

We meet twice a month from October to May

## **Timing**

The first Sunday of the month following 10:30 Mass

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://stcatherinedrake.org/religious-education/>

## **Program Resources Used**

Our resources are created in-house by a team of dedicated volunteers on the Encounter curriculum subcommittee. We draw from [ingtergenerationalfaith.com](http://ingtergenerationalfaith.com), Fashioning Faith, Loyola Press, and a number of other websites.

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

We utilize a monthly newsletter format that contains links for households to connect to in order to continue faith formation at home.

# St. Cecilia, St. Paul, MN

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## **Contact Persons**

Marge Virnig, Pastoral Associate  
Theresa O'Toole, Catechetical Ministry Coordinator

## **Description of the Program**

St. Cecilia's intergenerational faith formation follows a Whole Community Worship (WCW) model. This involves families attending together, along with adults without children. The format includes a potluck meal, sharing in prayer and fellowship, followed by the session. There are three sessions each month. During two of the sessions, the parish breaks into small groups for faith formation classes. Once a month participants take part in a large-group activity in which families stay together. This may include a prayer experience, a service project, or a community-building activity.

Confirmation meets every other year led by volunteer coordinators. Parents attend with the students and follow the same format as above. Baptism and Marriage prep are individually designed (it's a small parish). For sacramental prep, parents and children come together.

On Sunday morning, the parish offers Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children in Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The Liturgy of the Word for Children is also offered.

Adult and youth forums meet periodically, and small groups meet seasonally.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

All topics are based on Fashioning Faith and planned annually.

## **Frequency of Programming**

Families meet from three times a month from October to May.

## **Timing**

See above.

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://stceciliaspm.org/>

## **Program Resources Used**

The parish uses Fashioning Faith for its program sessions.

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

None

# Ss. John and Paul, Altoona, IA

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## Contact Person

Jenni Lihs, [jlihs@ssjohnpaul.org](mailto:jlihs@ssjohnpaul.org)

## Description of the Program

Parish Intergenerational Faith Formation welcomes everyone... retirees, young adults, empty nesters, families with children, singles, newly married couples... to learn and grow in faith together. We gather in person each month, and households choose their preferred gathering time when they register. We enjoy a meal, pray, share, and celebrate our faith together. Our monthly gatherings are supplemented by Kitchen Table Faith, our website to offer tools to build each of our personal relationships with Jesus.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

See attached matrix with the history of the program.

## Frequency of Programming

Monthly Faith Formation, September through May, with additional youth ministry opportunities.

## Timing

Sunday 5-7:30pm or Wednesday 5:30-8pm.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://ssjohnpaul.org/faith-formation>

## Program Resources Used

Intergenerationalfaith.com

Fashioningfaith.org

Lifeteen

Various websites that relate to that month's topic.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

We curate resources each month and put together a faith formation website: [www.ssjohnpaulfaithformation.org](http://www.ssjohnpaulfaithformation.org) for our participants to use to further their learning on that month's topic. Then parts of it are shared in the weekly e-newsletter. **Note:** Past year's faith formation website content is archived here: <https://ssjohnpaul.org/parish-intergenerational-faith-formation> under "Formation Websites."

The parish also has a subscription to Formed.

# Distribution of Topics Years 1 to Present

## Revised March 2021

As Seen in the Essential Dimensions of Lifelong Faith Formation

Code: Year: Sept 1 – Oct 2 – Nov 3 – Dec 4 – Jan 5 – Feb 6 – Mar 7 – April 8 – May 9 – June VBS themes – 10; Small Group themes – 11

Example: 1.6 = Year one, February

**Years 1-9** 2003-2012; **Years 10-14** 2012-2017; **Year 15-16** 2017-2019 **Year 17** 2019-2020 with April and May virtual; Year 18 2020-2021 all sessions virtual

<b>The Dimensions</b>	<b>Years 1-9</b>	<b>Years 10-14</b>	<b>Years 15-17</b>	<b>Years 18</b>
<b>Knowledge of the Faith</b> <b>Gradual Introduction to the tradition and Scripture, to the full meaning of the creed. Growth in a relationship with Jesus Christ and the community of faith.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trinity</b></li> <li>• <b>God the Father and Creator</b></li> <li>• <b>Jesus Christ, Son of God</b></li> <li>• <b>Jesus Christ, Death and Resurrection – the Paschal Mystery</b></li> <li>• <b>Jesus Christ, Identity</b></li> <li>• <b>Holy Spirit</b></li> <li>• <b>Church</b></li> <li>• <b>Communion of Saints and Life Everlasting</b></li> <li>• <b>Mary, Mother of God</b></li> <li>• <b>Call to Discipleship</b></li> <li>• <b>Living as a Disciple</b></li> <li>• <b>Scripture and Lectionary</b></li> </ul>	1.6 2.2; 2.3 3.2; 3.5; 3.6 4.1; 4.2; 4.5 5.2; 5.4; 5.9 6.1; 6.5 7.2; 7.10; 7.11 8.2; 8.4; 8.8 9.1; 9.4; 9.11	10.1; 10.2; 10.3; 10.4; 10.8; 10.10; 10.11 11.1; 11.2; 11.3; 11.4 12.1, 12.3, 12.4, 12.7 13.2, 13.9 14.2 the Christian religions; 14.3 Jewish traditions; 14.4 Islam, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8. 14.9	15.1, 15.2, 15.3 Reformation, 15.4 Scripture, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.8 Scripture focus entire year 17 mainly Old Testament 17.1 17.2 music, storytelling, ancestors in faith 17.3 17.4 lectionary 17.5 17.6 17.7 beatitudes 17.8 17.9	Scripture focus entire year 18 mainly on New Testament 18.1 through 18.9

<p><b>Liturgical Formation</b>  <b>Formation for “full, conscious, and active participation” in our liturgical life – the meaning of the liturgy and the sacraments and the creeds, a spirit of thanksgiving and of repentance, praying with the community of faith.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist</b></li> <li>• <b>Eucharist: Liturgy of the Word</b></li> <li>• <b>Eucharist: Liturgy of the Eucharist</b></li> <li>• <b>Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick</b></li> <li>• <b>Sacraments of Vocation: Marriage, Holy Orders</b></li> <li>• <b>Rite of Funerals</b></li> </ul>	<p>1.5 Baptism;  1.7 Eucharist;  1.9 Confirmation  2.5 Vocation  3.6 Eucharist;  3.8 Forgiveness  4.3 Eucharist;  4.8 Baptism;  4.9 Confirmation  5.1 Holy Orders; 5.6 Marriage  6.1; 6.3 Reconciliation;  6.8 Healing  7.3 Eucharist;  7.7 Baptism;  7.9 Conf  8.3 Eucharist  9.2 Baptism;  9.3 Eucharist</p>	<p>10.7 Recon  12.3 Sac of Sick  13.5 Baptism as well as Confirmation and Eucharist  13.5 Baptism as well as Confirmation and Eucharist  14.5, 14.7 Reconciliation</p>	<p>15.2 Lifelong FF, 15.5  16.1, 16.2 Baptism  Confirmation, 1  6.3 Eucharist,  16.6 Holy Orders  Matrimony  16.7 Sacraments of Healing  17.4</p>	<p>18.3, 18.4</p>
<p><b>Moral Formation</b>  <b>Conversion to Jesus Christ, through a journey of transformation. The Sermon on the Mount as the indispensable basis for moral formation. The challenge to receive the Word of God and put it into practice, including the social consequences of the demands of the Gospel.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Catholic Morality</b></li> <li>• <b>Catholic Moral Decision-making</b></li> <li>• <b>Love of God (Commandments 1-3)</b></li> <li>• <b>Love of Neighbor (Commandments 4-10)</b></li> <li>• <b>Sanctity of Life (Commandment 5)</b></li> <li>• <b>Faithfulness and Fidelity (Commandments 6, 9)</b></li> <li>• <b>Justice (Commandments 7, 10)</b></li> <li>• <b>Honesty and Integrity (Commandment 8)</b></li> <li>• <b>Conscience, Sin, and Forgiveness</b></li> </ul>	<p>4.6  5.6; 5.7  6.1; 6.8  9.5; 9.7</p>	<p>10.7; 10.11  11.8; 11.9  12.1, 12.8, 12.9  13.3, 13.4  14.2, 14.3, 14.4,  14.6, 14.7, 14.8</p>	<p>15.5, 15.6, 15.8  17.1 and 17.3  Receive the word of God  17.7 commandment s; beatitudes, psalms</p>	<p>18.5 receive the word and put into practice</p>

Code: Year: Sept 1 – Oct 2 – Nov 3 – Dec 4 – Jan 5 – Feb 6 – Mar 7 – April 8 – May 9 – June VBS themes – 10; Small Group themes – 11

Example: 1.6 = Year one, February

**Years 1-9** 2003-2012; **Years 10-14** 2012-2017; **Year15-16** 2017-2019 **Year 17** 2019-2020 Year 18 2020-2021 all sessions virtual

<p><b>Prayer</b>  <b>The Lord’s Prayer as the model for all Christian prayer. Develop a spirit of prayer through faith formation and the life of the community. Learn to pray in all circumstances, and to prayer with the community of faith.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Call to Prayer, Prayer forms and expressions</b></li> <li>• <b>Our Father</b></li> <li>• <b>Rosary</b></li> <li>• <b>Catholic Devotions and Prayers</b></li> <li>• <b>Praying through the year: Advent-Christmas Seasons</b></li> <li>• <b>Praying through the year: Lent-Easter Seasons</b></li> </ul>	<p>2.6; 2.8  3.4;  3.75.3;  5.5; 5.7;  5.9  6.4; 6.6;  6.7; 6.9  8.6</p>	<p>10.5  11.5  12.5  13.7  14.3, 14.9,</p>	<p>15.1, 15.6  17.8  Virtual: art and icons from scripture</p>	<p>18.1  18.3 and  18.4  Teaching to pray</p>	
<p><b>Formation for Community Life</b>  <b>Apprenticeship in the ways of the communal life – a spirit of simplicity and humility, care for persons in need and for those who are alienated, communal prayer, correction and forgiveness, love of one another. Knowledge of and love for other Christian communities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Church</b></li> <li>• <b>Advent Season</b></li> <li>• <b>Christmas Season</b></li> <li>• <b>Lenten Season</b></li> <li>• <b>Triduum</b></li> <li>• <b>Easter Season</b></li> <li>• <b>Pentecost</b></li> <li>• <b>Feasts of Mary</b></li> </ul>	<p>1.4; 1.8  2.4; 2.6;  2.7; 2.8;  2.9  3.4; 3.7;  3.9  4.7  5.3  6.6; 6.9  7.4; 7.5;  7.6  8.5; 8.7;  8.9  9.6</p>	<p>10.6; 10.9  11.5; 11.7  12.5, 12.6  13.6  14.1  communal prayer;  14.2, 14.5  Epiphany;  14.8 Easter season;  14.9  Pentecost</p>	<p>15.8, 15.9  16.4, 16.5,  16.7, 16.8</p>	<p>18.1, 18.2 and 18.3  Household churches  contrast  early church with now  18.4 the gospels in Christmas season  18.8  decisions in light of pandemic guidelines  18.9 Easter Pentecost and post pandemic</p>	
<p><b>Missionary Spirit</b>  Forming disciples for the sake of a mission, present in society as Christians – proclaim Christ by word and deed, promote the common good, work for the transformation of society through social action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Call to Discipleship</b></li> <li>• <b>Living as a Disciple</b></li> <li>• <b>Catholic Social Teaching Themes:</b></li> </ul>	<p>1.2; 1.3  2.1  3.1; 3.3  4.4  5.1; 5.8  6.5  7.1; 7.7;  7.11  8.1; 8.11  9.8; 9.9</p>	<p>10.2; 10.2;  10.3; 10.8  11.11  12.2, 12.4,  12.5, 12.9  13.3  Corporal and  Spiritual  works of</p>	<p>15.3, 15.6,  15.8, 15.9  16.1, 16.4,  16.9</p>	<p>18.5, 18.6,  18.7 reach out in love  18.8 new life after pandemic  18.9 discern own gifts for going forth</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Life and dignity of the human person</li> <li>○ Call to family, community, and participation</li> <li>○ Rights and responsibilities</li> <li>○ Option for the poor and vulnerable</li> <li>○ The dignity of work and the rights of workers</li> <li>○ Solidarity</li> <li>○ Care for God’s creation</li> <li>○ Subsidiarity</li> <li>○ Peace</li> </ul>		mercy, 13.8 Care for God’s Creation 14.1, 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.8			
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Example: 1.6 = Year one, February

**Years 1-9** 2003-2012; **Years 10-14** 2012-2017; **Year15-16** 2017-2019 **Year 17** 2019-2020 Year 18 2020-2021 all sessions virtual



Join Ss. John and Paul Parish for...

# Faith Formation for all Ages

**To Know Christ, Be Known by Christ,  
and Make Christ Known**

is our **Parish Intergenerational Faith Formation** focus for this year. Monthly gatherings meet Sunday 5-7:30 pm OR Wednesday, 5:30-8 pm with a simple meal. Fee: \$55/person, maximum of \$180 per family. Preschoolers attend **Parish Intergenerational Faith Formation free**. Childcare available through PreK.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**  
*Is for children ages 4 through grade 4* during 8:30 & 10:30 am Masses- No registration necessary.

**OCIA:** Order of Christian Initiation for Adults for those interested in joining the Catholic Church. Contact Deacon Steve McGee, 515-967-3796

**Adult Small Faith Sharing Groups**  
Contact Chevy Freiburger, 515-422-6011

**JustFaith:**

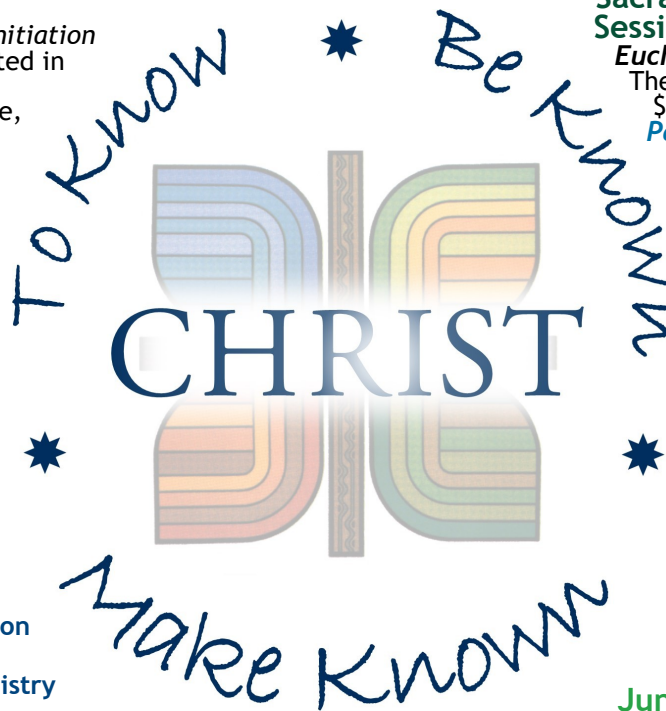
A process in which participants can grow in understanding and living of the Gospel. Contact Joe Antonelli, 515-202-6479

**Faith Formation Staff Contacts:**

**Director of Faith Formation**  
Jenni Lihs, 515-967-3796

**Coordinator of Youth Ministry**  
Maria Haas, 515-967-3796

**All households are welcome!**  
**There's something for everyone!**  
Single, married, adults, kids, teenagers, empty nesters, senior citizens, college students... families of all shapes and sizes!



**Sacramental Preparation Sessions for Reconciliation/ Eucharist, & Confirmation:**

There is an additional fee of \$50/child. Participation in **Parish Intergenerational Faith Formation** is required for two years prior to celebrating the sacraments.

**Persons with Disabilities**

contact Jenni Lihs, 515-967-3796

**Youth Ministry:**

Youth exploring faith!

**JP Kidz, grades 3 & 4  
Tweens, grades 5 & 6**

Participation in **Parish Intergenerational Faith Formation** is required for Tweens and JP Kidz.

**Juniorhigh Youth Ministry (JYM) grades 7 & 8** \*Fee: \$55/student

**Teen Group for high school students** \*Fee: \$55/student

\*Students who register with their families for **Parish Intergenerational Faith Formation** attend Teen Group and JYM free.

**Faith  
Formation  
Registration  
August 19-20 & 26-27  
after all Masses**



**Ss. John and Paul Catholic Church**

1401 1st Ave. S. Altoona IA 50009 • 515-967-3796 • www.ssjohnpaul.org

**The Church's essential dimensions of lifelong faith formation**

- Leading to Knowledge of the Faith**

Gradual introduction to Tradition and Scripture, to the full meaning of the Creed, and to Catholic Social Teaching. Growth in a relationship with Jesus Christ, the community of faith, and the wider community we are called to serve.
- Initiating into the Celebration of the Mystery**

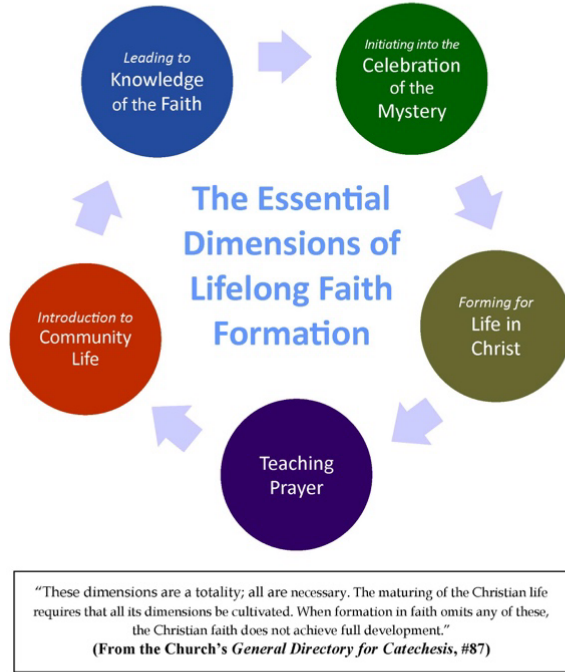
Formation for "full, conscious and active participation" in our liturgical life – the meaning of the liturgy and the sacraments and the creeds, a spirit of thanksgiving and of repentance, praying with the community of faith, and sending forth into the world to share and be the Good News.
- Forming for Life in Christ**

Conversion to Jesus Christ, through a journey of transformation. The Sermon on the Mount as the indispensable basis for moral formation. The challenge to receive the Word of God and put it into practice, including the social consequences of the demands of the Gospel.
- Teaching Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer as the model for all Christian prayer. Develop a spirit of prayer through faith formation and the life of the community. Learn to pray in all circumstances, to pray with the community of faith, to allow prayer to animate our mission.
- Introduction to Community Life**

Apprenticeship in the ways of the communal life – a spirit of simplicity and humility, care for persons in need and for those who are alienated, communal prayer, correction and forgiveness, love of one another. Knowledge of and love for other Christian communities. Co-responsibility for building up the community and as missionary disciples.

Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization:  
 Directory for Catechesis published by USCCB (2020)  
 Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us (1999), www.usccb.org/education/ourhearts.htm  
 Rev. 10/2021



**How does St. John and Paul Parish cultivate these essential dimensions of faith formation?**



For more information: [www.ssjohnpaul.org](http://www.ssjohnpaul.org) and [www.ssjohnpaulfaithformation.org](http://www.ssjohnpaulfaithformation.org)

# St. Joseph, West Milford, NJ

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## Contact Person

Sr. Geraldine Corio

## Description of the Program

St. Joseph Parish recognizes that the Catholic faith has been passed from one generation to the next since 1765. For this reason, the parish calls its faith formation process *Generations of Faith*.

Each gathering includes:

1. Welcome & Hospitality
2. An Opening Prayer and All-Ages Experience
3. In-Depth Learning
4. We Share Together

Because the journey of faith is lifelong, in addition to the gatherings, St. Joseph encourages families to build beautiful Catholic practices and family traditions and to celebrate ordinary and special Catholic Christian occasions.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

Yearly topics covered include: Creed, Sacraments, Morality, Prayer, Covenants, Discipleship, Justice, Virtues (Living with Holy Habits), Life of Christ, the Bible, and the Liturgical Year.

## Frequency of Programming

The intergenerational sessions are held on a monthly basis.

## Timing

This has changed in the last several years. Currently the sessions are held on Saturday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45; Sunday mornings beginning with Mass at 10:00 with the sessions following until 12:30 p.m.; and Monday evenings from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://stjoseph-nj.org/>

## Program Resources Used

The basic resources used are the Scriptures and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The parish also uses many and varied resources to help in the planning of the sessions. One of them is the webinars from the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University in Steubenville OH.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

The parish uses many and varied resources, including online resources from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

# Part 3. Family Catechesis Integrated within Children's Catechesis (including Sacrament Preparation)

## Old St. Mary's, Chicago, IL

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### **Contact Person**

Maryellen Harrington, Pastoral Associate, [mharrington@oldstmarys.com](mailto:mharrington@oldstmarys.com)

### **Description of the Program**

There is a family session once a month in place of a "classroom" session. The sessions are thematic, self-paced, and facilitated by the classroom catechists. Each month five to seven learning centers are set up throughout the gym, and families move at their own pace, visiting as many learning centers as time allows. There is a yearly theme. Hospitality is part of the family sessions, and priority is placed on families attending the family session vs. the classroom. All parishioners are welcome, and frequently grandparents come with their families or bring the children whose parents work on the weekends.

The second-grade sacramental preparation is done entirely by parents. They are prepared via four adult sessions, then do the faith formation at home with their child.

### **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

Previous themes included unpacking the beatitudes, one beatitude each month; unpacking the sacraments, one each month. The parish uses a lectionary-based curriculum.

### **Frequency of Programming**

Families gather once a month with a few extra seasonal sessions added (e.g., Advent Wreath-Making). Classroom sessions occur twice monthly.

### **Timing**

Sessions happen between the two Sunday morning Masses for 90 minutes.

### **Faith Formation Website**

<https://oldstmarys.com/>

### **Program Resources Used**

The parish uses Pflaum's Lectionary-Based Curriculum. For the family sessions, the faith formation leader writes the sessions. Previously, the parish used Loyola Family Catechesis.

### **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

Pflaum offers digital lessons for home when a child is absent from class. Instead of penalizing families for missed sessions, the parish sends resources home.

# St. Alphonsus Parish, Mt. Pleasant, IA

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## Contact Person

Kelley Tansey, [mtpleasantstaldre@diodav.org](mailto:mtpleasantstaldre@diodav.org)

## Description of the Program

Before COVID, the parish had a traditional weekly classroom-based program for school-age children. Just before COVID hit, parish leaders had come to a decision to transition from a traditional weekly classroom model to a family-based program.

In December of 2019 St. Alphonsus began offering Children's Liturgy of the Word at one Mass a week for children ages 3-7. This was received well but was shut down with COVID just a few months later. CLOW resumed in the Spring of 2021.

Currently, the parish has completed two years of in-person Family Formation, using the Family Formation program from the Church of St. Paul. This program has one in-person meeting a month and three to four home lessons each month. At the in-person meeting, the parish begins with social time. The children are then sent to classrooms with catechists while parents have a guest speaker (a volunteer from the parish or the DRE) who speaks about the theme of that month to the parents. There are also icebreakers and discussion time for parents to try to build some community.

In the 2021-22 year the parish used Signs of Grace for Sacramental Prep as an at-home program (using the online platform) with families still attending Family Formation. They also had an in-person retreat for each sacrament. For the 2022-23 year the parish is going with the Family Formation Sacramental Prep. This was also well-received and worked better for keeping families together on same schedule.

For 2021-22 the parish included grades 7 and 8 with the high schoolers and called this weekly in-person meeting Youth Ministry. Grades 7-9 used Year 1 of EQSaints Equipped for Life. Grades 10-12, preparing for Confirmation, used Chosen from Ascension Press. Grades 7-8 were in one group and grade 9 in another group, both using Year 1. One post-Confirmation youth from the previous year wanted to continue coming to Wednesday nights, so she became a helper in the grade 7-8 group.

For the 2022-23 year the parish had 7<sup>th</sup> grade doing Year 1, grades 8-9 doing Year 2, and grades 10-12 doing Chosen. The Confirmation Prep catechists utilized Kahoot to pre-test the youth on the different Chosen chapters. For 2023-24 the parish is breaking up grades 7, 8, and 9 and using Years 1, 2, and 3 (soon to be released) from EQSaints. They will continue using Chosen for Confirmation Prep.

In the summer a Totus Tuus team from the Diocese puts on a day program for grades 1-6 and an evening program for grades 7-12. This lasts for one week.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

CLOW is based on the children's lectionary and meets weekly from October to May. Family Formation is based on the Family Formation curriculum. For the 2022-23 year the theme was the Liturgical Year. For the 2023-24 year the theme is The Mass. A list of topics for the current year can be found here:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/879da5e7001/4415c218-6ec7-4668-b8ac-c1fa620a7dd4.pdf?rdr=true>.

EQSaints Equipped for Life has a different theme for each year. Year 1 is called Encounter and is used for the 7th graders. Encounter is focused on introducing young people to Christian Life. They look at faith and doubt, our relationship with God the Father, and who Jesus Christ was and is in our lives. Year 2 for Grade 8 is called Discipleship and is about developing the foundational habits of Christian life, from the establishment of

personal prayer time to the teachings of the Church, to worship, and community. Year 3, Mission, for the 9th graders is about becoming an ambassador of Christ and taking up the ministry of the Church. The 10<sup>th</sup> through 12th graders preparing for Confirmation experience Chosen from Ascension Press. Totus Tuus program is provided by the Diocese

### **Frequency of Programming**

CLOW meets weekly from October to May. Family Formation meets monthly from September to May. Youth Ministry meets weekly from September to May.

### **Timing**

CLOW has been meeting at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Family Formation meets the first Sunday of the month after the 9:00 Sunday Mass year. Youth Ministry meets weekly from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Totus Tuus meets for one week in the summer. Grades 1-6 meet Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and grades 7-12 meet Sunday through Thursday from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m.

### **Faith Formation Website URL**

Parish Website: <https://www.mtpstalphonsus.org/>

Faith Formation Website: <https://stalphonsusfaithformation.weebly.com/>

### **Program Resources Used**

- CLOW: Children's Lectionary, CLOW volunteers like to show artwork while they are doing the readings. We find the artwork here: <https://www.liturgytools.net/p/artworks-for-roman-catholic-lectionary.html>
- Family Formation from the Church of Saint Paul <https://www.familyformation.net/>
- EQSaints Equipped for Life <https://eqsaints.com/eq-access/>
- Chosen by Ascension Press <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/chosen-your-journey-to-confirmation>

### **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

- Main Faith Formation website: <https://stalphonsusfaithformation.weebly.com/>
- Family Formation webpage: <https://stalphonsusfaithformation.weebly.com/family-formation.html>
  - Families are offered a playlist for each month to accompany the at-home lessons as supplementary resources. This includes resources for the children but also for parents so that they can do a deeper dive into the topic if they want to learn more for themselves.
- Reconciliation Prep webpage: <https://stalphonsusfaithformation.weebly.com/reconciliation.html>
- First Communion webpage: <https://stalphonsusfaithformation.weebly.com/first-communion.html>
- Youth Ministry and Confirmation webpage: <https://stalphonsusfaithformation.weebly.com/youth-ministry.html>



# St. Ambrose Cathedral, Des Moines, IA

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## Contact Person:

Theresa Lewis, [director@mhtwallingfordfaithformation.com](mailto:director@mhtwallingfordfaithformation.com)

## Description of the Program

The Cathedral offers a hybrid of class instruction for grades 1-12 and a parent class. Sacramental prep includes First Communion for grades 2+ (the majority of our First Communicants were 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade) and a two-year Confirmation program. Faith formation alternates with Family Faith encounters: adoration, family reconciliation, rosary, divine mercy chaplet, church tour, prayer stations, ask a priest, stations of the cross, etc. Service projects are also part of faith formation. In 2022-23, there were 18 traditional class weekends, 14 family faith encounter weekends, two sacramental weekends and a year-end celebration.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

the program is evolving. The Cathedral transitioned from an older version of *Be My Disciples* to a *Word of Life* series for the 2022-23 faith formation year and is now evaluating alternatives. Loyola Press is utilized for Confirmation.

Families are made up of people speaking nine different languages. Topics for parent class were driven in part by parent feedback at the beginning of the school year. The parent class content follows church seasons, and this year time was spent on the catechism. While the parents are not following the same content as the students, parents are made aware of what topics are being covered with the students.

The theme or focus for this past year was prayer. In 2023-24, it will be the universal call to holiness with a focus on the saints.

## Frequency of Programming

Faith formation happens weekly from September through May.

## Timing

Sessions are offered on Sunday mornings between 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://www.saintambrosecathedral.org/family-faith-formation/>

## Program Resources Used

The parish is evaluating resource options. Currently *Word of Life*, Formed resources, and the Loyola Press Confirmation program are used.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

Faith formation leaders selected *Word of Life* because of its integration with FORMED (which has a fairly high adoption rate for parents to access class materials with their child on-line). The utilization of the on-line resources at home was very limited due to language and technical skills.

# St. John the Evangelist, Long Green Valley, Hydes, MD

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## **Contact Person**

Theresa Konitzer, Director of Religious Education, [religioueducation@sjehydes.org](mailto:religioueducation@sjehydes.org)

## **Description of the Program**

The parish, acting on the belief that parents are the primary teachers of their children in the faith, offers in-person classes for students in Pre-School through Grade 8 while supporting and accompanying the parents. Children's classes meet weekly for one hour from September through April. Families gather throughout the year with their children to experience intergenerational learning. The intergenerational family sessions focus on a specific theme each year.

A home study program is provided for students whose families cannot attend the weekly program.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

In 2022-23 the theme was based on the Parish Mission. The sessions began with the premise that God created all of us for a Sacred Purpose to "Go Make Disciples." The next session helped families discover their unique gifts and talents. The final session was learning how the Holy Spirit helps us in fulfilling our Sacred Purpose.

The 2023-24 year has the families gathering five times with the theme of "Eucharistic Revival."

## **Frequency of Programming**

The current year involves five sessions of family intergenerational learning.

## **Timing**

Families gather on Sundays from 10:15 to 11:20 a.m.

## **Faith Formation Website**

[www.sjehydes.org](http://www.sjehydes.org); <https://sjehydes.org/religious-education-faith-formation>

## **Program Resources Used**

The parish uses many different resources including ideas from Vacation Bible School Programs.



# St. Joseph, Farmington, MO

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## **Contact Person**

Jane Ramos, [jramos@stjosephfarmington.com](mailto:jramos@stjosephfarmington.com)

## **Description of the Program**

The faith formation program at St. Joseph is primarily for students in preschool through eighth grade through religion classes and the Parish School of Religion program. The PSR recognizes parents as the primary faith formators of their children. PSR supports parents in the faith development of their children by providing spiritual formation through a variety of specialized programs.

The parish shares educational resources with families about praying in the home, Mass participation, family life, technology education, and virtues.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

The parish determines which topics are needed.

## **Frequency of Programming**

Classes occur on a weekly basis.

## **Timing**

Classes meet on Wednesday evenings.

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://stjosephfarmington.com/make-connections>; <https://stjosephfarmington.com/psr>

## **Program Resources Used**

The parish uses RCL Benziger's *Family Life* resources, Sadlier's *In God's Own Making*, and the *Restorative Discipline/Virtue Program*.

# St. Margaret of Scotland, Morristown, NJ

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## Contact Person

Omar Hernandez, [fformation@margarechurch.org](mailto:fformation@margarechurch.org)

## Description of the Program

The parish uses *Word of Life* for its First Communion preparation and *Chosen* for Confirmation. Both programs are two years in length and offer written texts and digital platforms which students and their families can access for more interactive learning.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

The parish has explored God is Love, Creation, Trinity, Heaven, the Catholic Church, the Commandments, the Sacraments, and Prayer Life, along with other topics.

## Frequency of Programming

The program is designed to have students and families study a different topic every weekend. At the end of each semester the parish offers a general review of the content studied.

## Timing

Classes are offered on the weekend and last for one hour and twenty minutes.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://csmargaret.org/fff>

## Program Resources Used

The parish uses the books *Word of Life* and *Chosen*. The links for parishioners to access the online resources are from the Augustine Institute and Ascension Press.

# St. Mark Parish, Westminster, CO

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## Contact Person

Laurie Lopez, [llopez@saintmarkcc.org](mailto:llopez@saintmarkcc.org)

## Description of the Program

Children attend classes weekly, and parents come once a month for a catechetical session on a particular topic. The parish used Pflaum *Gospel Weeklies* for the curriculum in 2022-2023. For the 2023-2024 year, the parish is using Loyola Press' *Finding God* series, utilizing the Family Catechesis model.

Sacramental preparation is completed on-site in family groups, with catechist-facilitated, parent-led sessions.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

The Loyola Press curriculum is divided into five units: God the Father; Jesus Our Lord and Savior; The Church, Our Community in the Spirit; Sacraments, Our Way of Life; and Morality, Our Lived Faith. There are also seasonal sessions for Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, as well as sessions for the Liturgical Year and Saints.

The parish is also offering sessions for parents on topics related to parenting and family life.

## Frequency of Programming

Last year the parish had weekly sessions, but experienced significant attrition after Christmas. This year the parish made the decision to meet twice per month (even though the Family Catechesis Model only calls for once a month).

## Timing

The sessions take place on Sunday mornings between the two later Masses (9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.). Sacramental preparation meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

## Faith Formation Website

[www.saintmarkcc.org/religious-education](http://www.saintmarkcc.org/religious-education)

## Program Resources Used

In addition to the *Finding God* series from Loyola Press, the parish is continuing to use *Growing Up Catholic* for sacramental preparation. The Archdiocese is a restored order diocese, which makes finding materials for that configuration a little challenging. The parish is considering Pflaum's *Gifted with the Spirit* for the few adolescents who need Confirmation only. It will be supplemented with Loyola Press' materials for Grade Seven.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

One of the reasons St. Mark chose Loyola Press was due to its robust digital library as well as the inclusion of digital Student Editions for home use. Parish leadership felt that if they are asking parents to work on materials at home, it is much easier and more enjoyable for them to do that online. In addition, there are many digital games and interactive lessons that are more relevant for today's families.

# St. Michael the Archangel, Canton, OH

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## Contact Person

Julie Sutton, [julie@stmichaelcanton.org](mailto:julie@stmichaelcanton.org)

## Description of the Program

St. Michael's utilizes a flexible hybrid program including:

- Age-level classes OR home study
- Family-chosen prayer and service
- Large-group family gatherings open to the whole community four times a year.

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

Class or home study lessons are lectionary-based and use Pflaum's *Gospel Weeklies*. Each week the Sunday Gospel is studied and applied to the family's lives.

Large-group topics are varied but are based on diocesan curriculum requirements of Scripture, Prayer/Liturgy, Social Justice, and Christian living.

## Frequency of Programming

Over the course of a year, there are 24 weekly classes on Sunday mornings between the morning Masses or the choice of home study. Monthly prayer and service experiences chosen by families and at their convenience are offered. There are four large-group events each year, offered twice on weekday evenings to give families a choice.

## Timing

Those who choose gathered sessions meet between the two Sunday morning Masses.

## Faith Formation Website

<https://www.stmichaelcanton.org/33>

<https://stmichaelfamiliestogether.weebly.com/>

## Program Resources Used

The parish uses Pflaum *Gospel Weeklies* and other print and online resources curated by the director, catechists, and teams of planners.

## Digital Resources for Participants/Website

See above.

# Part 4. Seasonal Family Catechesis Gatherings

## Holy Name of Mary, San Diego, CA

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**Contact Person:** Melanie Bailey, [Melanie@hnmparish.org](mailto:Melanie@hnmparish.org)

**Church:** Holy Name of Mary, San Dimas, CA

### **Description of the Program**

Faith Formation at Holy Name of Mary parish fosters a life-long journey of discipleship for the whole family. Our primary mission is encounters with Christ for children, teens, and their parents.

### **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

The parish incorporates a three-part model: my child's faith, my family's faith, and my faith. The curriculum has varied from year to year after this model was first adopted during the pandemic (2020-21). For children, the parish uses a basal curriculum program (Year 1), sacrament curriculum (Year 2), and then other youth groups after the sacramental journey. For families, the parish offers various whole family events during the year on topics such as the liturgical year, a Scripture/Sacrament retreat (Year 2), a kerygma retreat (Year 1), saints, and Mary. The parents are offered various one-day programs or series such as Gospel reflection groups, a parent retreat, and book study groups.

### **Frequency of Programming**

Children meet two times per month. Families have three events per year but are welcome to attend more. Parents have one event or series per year. Again, they are welcome to attend more sessions.

### **Timing**

Children meet on weekday afternoons or evenings. Families gather on an evening or on Saturday. Parents attend during their children's classes or on evenings or Saturdays.

### **Faith Formation Website**

<https://hnmparish.org/faith>

### **Program Resources Used**

Various

### **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

Various

# St. Charles Borromeo, Tacoma, WA

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## **Contact Person**

Jodie Clark, [jclark@stcharlesb.org](mailto:jclark@stcharlesb.org)

## **Description of the Program**

All families and parishioners are invited to what the parish calls Faith Fests. These include prayer, ice breakers, a focus message, faith-sharing, breakout activities, and food. When applicable, the parish invites people of various ages to give brief witness talks as part of the session. The breakout activities consist of three to ten-minute stations for families with children to rotate through. The stations include discussion and crafts. While this is occurring, adults without children have a 30-minute session on the same topics.

## **Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

Previously, the parish has focused on All Saints, Baptism, Pentecost, and Corpus Christi.

This year the parish is covering Good Shepherd, Word of God Sunday, and Marian Devotion/Rosary.

## **Frequency of Programming**

At present, the parish is conducting Faith Fests three times a year.

## **Timing**

The Faith Fests are offered on Sundays after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. They go from 11:00 to 12:25.

## **Faith Formation Website**

<https://www.saintcharlesb.org/learn>

<https://www.saintcharlesb.org/inter-generational>

## **Program Resources Used**

The parish has used resources developed by the Center for Ministry Development, various other program materials, and sessions the parish leadership has created.

## **Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

The parish uses PowerPoints from CMD and only what they might put on the parish website.

# St. Patrick and St. Columbanus, Neola, IA

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**Contact Person**

Shannon Nye, [dre@stpatricksneola.com](mailto:dre@stpatricksneola.com)

**Description of the Program:**

The parish offers a traditional classroom model for gr. PreK through 8 on Sunday mornings. As the parish transitions to a more intergenerational approach, they are introducing Family Formation one Sunday a month this year. This will include a family Mass, food, and a program for parents and children.

**Yearly Curriculum or Topics (please provide multiple years if possible)**

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies – Pre-K/K

Alive in Christ – gr. 1 – 8

The Teen Timeline and Decision Point – gr. 9 – 12

**Frequency of Programming**

The program meets weekly from September through April.

**Timing**

Sundays from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. for K – 8 and 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. for gr. 9 – 12; the second Sunday of the month is Family Formation

**Faith Formation Website URL or Page on Church Website:** [https://stpatricksneola.com/faith\\_formation](https://stpatricksneola.com/faith_formation)

**Program Resources Used**

Alive In Christ and Confirmation Alive In Christ, Catechism of the Catholic Church (RCIA), Fusion (RCIC), Encounter Christ Reconciliation, First Eucharist

# Additional: Archdiocese of Chicago Family Catechesis

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## Contact Person

Javier Castillo, [jacastillo@archchicago.org](mailto:jacastillo@archchicago.org)

## Description of the Program

Working especially with parishes with significant Hispanic communities, the Archdiocese has helped some of them develop a program similar to the Religious Education programs of the parishes, holding sessions at the same time but in different locations. There is weekly formation or catechesis for parents and sponsors. Other parishes are working with monthly meetings and they finish with a spiritual retreat before their children celebrate their sacraments.

The focus is on:

- Evangelization and catechesis;
- Catholic doctrine;
- Bible formation;
- Family catechesis: parents working with their children at home.

The methodology, especially in the Hispanic community is:

Welcoming  
Interactive prayer  
Music  
Icebreaker  
Short review from the preview class  
Topic of the day  
Small group discussion  
Break – snacks or sharing meals  
Plenary – the small groups share their conclusions with the larger group  
Music  
Conclusion  
Closing prayer  
Homework  
Dismissal

## Yearly Curriculum or Topics

It varies from parish to parish but the foundation is First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

## Frequency of Programming

Many of the parishes offer weekly faith formation, and others do it on a monthly basis. A few have three meetings per year. A majority of the parishes have a final spiritual retreat.

## Timing (days, times)

For parents and sponsors, Saturday or Sunday is the best time!

## Faith Formation Website URL or Page on Church Website

<https://pvm.archchicago.org/es/lifelong-formation/>

## Program Resources Used

Holy Scripture, Catholic Catechism for Adults  
Religious Education: children's book



# Additional: Diocese of Lubbock Family Catechesis

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**Contact Person:**

Sister Peggy Szeljack: [PSzeljack@catholiclubbock.org](mailto:PSzeljack@catholiclubbock.org)

**Faith Formation Website URL**

<https://catholiclubbock.org/FaithFormation.html>

**Description of the Program**

The curriculum provides for individual parishes to adapt to the needs of their parishioners. Samples are provided in the attachments.

**Yearly Curriculum or Topics**

20 –21 Sacraments Sample attached.

21 – 22 Rituals – see attachment of outline and sample lesson, all had PowerPoint presentations

22 – 23 Eucharist: Focus on the Mass <https://catholiclubbock.org/FaithFormation.html>

23 – 24 Creed -- Preliminary outline attached.

**Frequency of Programming (e.g., monthly, weekly)**

During Covid, we provided a weekly curriculum (20-21)

In 2021 – 22 we moved to a bi-weekly presentation

2022 – 23 was done monthly

**Program Resources Used**

None, written by Sister Peggy Szeljack

**Digital Resources for Participants/Website**

As researched.

Topical Playlist – age appropriate see <https://catholiclubbock.org/FaithFormation.html>

# Whole Family Faith Formation 2023 – 24

## Topic: The Apostles Creed

Month	Topic
September	I believe What we believe Self, others, trust, Are we the center of our world? Allowing God to be God Deepening our relationship with God How God reveals God’s self to us The difference between an atheist and an agnostic and a disciple Faith as a response to God Trinitarian belief Symbols for God
October	God of Love, Creator How did we get here? Where are we going? Are Science and Religion compatible? Divine Revelation Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
November	Communion of Saints Saints who have gone before us What are patron Saints? Saints among us Our deceased relatives and friends
December	Jesus, the Son, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary Mary’s singular grace Annunciation – Fiat Incarnation Hypostatic Union
January	The holy, catholic Church Marks of the Church One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic How to be ONE Jesus, the Holy One, Head of His Body, the Church Followers of the Way, Christian, Catholic Why universal? The apostles of yesterday and today Stewardship
February	The forgiveness of sin What is Sin? The God who gives us mercy How do we forgive others? Is it necessary?

March	<p>Suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified, died, and was buried</p> <p>Why did Jesus die for us?</p>
April	<p>On the third day He rose again. The resurrection of the body</p> <p>“End time prophesies” Vs. daily faithfulness Evangelization</p>
May	<p>I believe in the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Our motivation for evangelization and missionary discipleship. Walking the talk</p> <p>You may be the only Bible that some people ever read.</p>