



HOLY FAMILY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is that time again to register for Faith Formation classes for the coming school year! As with everything right now, this year will look different from previous years due to the wide spread effect of the COVID-19 virus and the necessary safety measures that are in place to protect us all. While our first desire is to be able to gather in person, we do not think it is prudent to do so at this time. With this said however, we cannot sit back idly and wait for life to return to the way it was. It is important, especially in times of crisis, to turn towards our faith and grow in our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

With this primary purpose in mind, we are introducing a family based Faith Formation curriculum for this year. As parents and guardians, you are called to be the primary catechists of your children and the Church has a responsibility to support you in this effort. At your child's Baptism, you committed to forming them in their faith. At the same time, the Church pledged to support you and we will continue to do this even though the format is changing.

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 (CCC, 1666).

We know and understand that this will be a shift in the way things are normally done. The months that we have been dealing with the coronavirus pandemic have not been easy, however we have heard from many of you that some of the changes have been a blessing on your family. We are hoping that this new way of passing on the faith will be one of those blessings.

The format that we have selected to use this year is called **A Family of Faith** and is published by Sophia Institute Press. It is rooted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and is enriched by prayer, sacred art, introductions to the saints and scripture. One thing we love about this curriculum is that it is designed to work in the natural rhythms of your family life – at the dinner table, in the car, and in small chunks of time spread throughout the week. It's looking for intentional ways to share the faith in your everyday lives. In the words of Saint Pope John Paul II,

"Catholic parents must learn to form their family as a "domestic church," a church in the home as it were, where God is honored, his law is respected, prayer is a normal event, virtue is transmitted by word and example, and everyone shares the hopes, the problems and sufferings of everyone else. All this is not to advocate a return to some outdated style of living: It is to return to the roots of human development and human happiness!" (New York, 1995)

Once registered, each family will receive a Parent's Guide and an activities book for each student. We ask that your family have a copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (either hardcopy or online access) and a Catholic Bible. At the beginning of each month, parents will gather to learn or review the concepts and the materials that they will share with their family. These will be held in person or via Zoom depending upon the current situation in our area. When able, we will also gather with the students once a month for a fun activity that will reinforce what they are being taught at home or provide you with the resources to do the fun activity at home (think kits).

If your child will be receiving a Sacrament this year, additional information will be sent out by the end of November to those registered and participating in **A Family of Faith**. We hope to be able to gather in person for workshops and classes, however we will need to wait to make this decision. Rest assured that your students will be prepared to receive their Sacraments this school year.

We hope that you will join us in our enthusiasm for this new opportunity to share the faith in spite of the current situation in which we find ourselves. We cannot take a break from forming our children in the faith and strengthening their relationship with Christ. We must find a way to overcome the challenges placed before us and prayerfully enter into this process trusting the Holy Spirit to guide our efforts.

Our **A Family of Faith** Kick Off will be on Sunday, September 13th! We will begin catechesis on Catechetical Sunday, September 20, 2020.

Registration is now open at <http://bit.ly/HFFaithForm> and we ask for your continued prayers for the spiritual growth of our domestic churches as they unite and strengthen our Holy Family Church.

Rest assured of our continued prayers for you all. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may be of assistance.

Faithfully In Christ,

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