

## FAQ's about the Family Faith Formation (FFF) program...

### ***What is the format of the program? How is it different from traditional CCD?***

For many years, many different parishes (city and suburban) have noticed several trends in parish life: a decline in Mass participation, difficulty in scheduling religious formation in the midst of the busy lives of parishioners, and a unintended separation between worship and formation. Our program is an effort to unify more strongly the worship experience and formation efforts of our families. It seeks to gather our Parish in a *formal* way **once a month** and *informally at home each week* – at each family's best time.

Our parish is fortunate to have many qualified individuals trained in religious formation. Additionally, through the Parish Pastoral Council, your responses to our annual survey, and casual conversations with staff members, we have gathered worthwhile feedback and critique on our program. On one hand, it is a bit different in that we gather as a Parish seemingly only once a month (although you gather as a family or neighbors each week); on the other hand, it is the similar to traditional models in that the 11:00AM – 12:00PM period is one-hour, grade level catechesis. It is different in that you may not gather at the Parish for so-called "CCD" as often; it is the same in that each family (or even neighbors) still will gather each week. *Yes* – we still take attendance; *yes* – there is still a book (weekly pamphlets); *yes* – we do assess each grade's understanding.

### ***What is the story on registration?***

Registration for religious formation begins in the early spring and is announced through numerous bulletin and pulpit announcements, as well as a direct mailing to last year's registered RF families. The regular registration period is through early August (after that date, registration is still allowed but includes a late fee).

Today, even if a family missed the early registration, the program is still open for participation. However, like all programs, the materials need to be ordered in advance based on registration through early August. So, we have a rolling registration; meaning families who missed the first registration can still register and participate, however, they will not have the printed material until the next batch of supplies is ordered (all material is shipped to us quarterly).

### ***What about children who are dropped-off without an adult (parent, relative, or guardian)?***

Every child's safety is our primary concern. Our hope is that everyone involved will respect the Religious Formation Handbook and be sure that some adult accompanies every child (if not a relative, perhaps a friend or neighbor?) Should a child arrive unaccompanied, he or she will be guided to the Grade One Catechist. Staff members from the Religious Formation office will immediately attempt to contact the parents of the child to determine supervision.

### ***What about special sacramental preparation, e.g., First Communion and Confirmation?***

Beyond the schedule (see reverse side), families with children or teens in Sacramental years (e.g., First Communion and Confirmation) will be required to meet additional times (schedule to be announced).

### ***May families whom are no longer involved in Religious Formation participate?***

Yes! As was noted at the very beginning of this endeavor, this program is intended for families – of all sizes, types, and make-ups! Any family is welcome to participate in all aspects of the program. Specifically, adults whose children are no longer part of religious formation, may wish to plug-in to the Adult Ed portion at 11:00AM (while the children are in class.)

### ***What is this I have heard about parking?***

We're not sure what you have heard, but we are excited to have as many people participate as possible, however, for the parking to work well, *we need everyone's cooperation*. Please do not park in areas cordoned-off by parking cones (or those marked as "No Parking"). Using street parking wherever allowed, carpooling, even walking (if close enough) will help greatly.

### ***What will be the schedule for the monthly Sunday gatherings?*** [See reverse side.]

## ~ Sunday Monthly Gathering ~

Below is the **basic schedule** for the monthly Sunday gatherings. The first thirty minutes are dedicated to arrival, check-in, introduction, and warm-up. The second hour involves the procession and the 10:00AM Mass. Lastly, during the final period, all groups will breakout into their appropriate or grade groupings for catechetical formation.

Interestingly enough, virtually each month is a bit different. For example, in December, the third period will be our traditional *Breakfast with St. Nicholas*. Also, we have lined-up guest speakers to keep our Adult sessions interesting and appealing. Each month we hope to provide enough information and variety that we couldn't possibly complete it all!

Thank you again for your cooperation!

### ~ Schedule: K - 8 ~

<b>9:30</b>	–	<b>9:50</b>	<b>Gathering, Refreshments, and Greeting</b> <i>Lower church</i>
<b>9:50</b>	–	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Music Rehearsal</b> <i>Church</i>
		~ <b>10:00</b>	<b>Mass</b> <i>Church</i>
		~ <b>10:50</b>	<b>Move to catechetical sessions</b>
<b>11:00</b>	–	<b>12:00</b>	<b>Children's Catechetical Sessions &amp; Adult Education</b> <i>Grade levels meet in assigned Trinity Catholic rooms;</i> <i>Adults meet in the lower church.</i>
		<b>12:00</b>	<b>Final announcements, Closing Prayer, &amp; Dismissal</b>

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### ~ Schedule: Confirmation ~

<b>5:00</b>	–	<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Confirmation Catechetical Sessions</b> <i>Lower church</i>
<b>6:00</b>	–	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Life Teen Mass</b> <i>Church</i>
~ <b>7:15</b>	–	~ <b>8:15</b>	<b>Life Night activity</b> <i>Lower church</i>