

Q & A about our Family of Faith Catechesis and Growing Up Catholic Sacramental Preparation

More information about why we emphasize a family model:

Why the switch from a classroom model to a family model?

While there are many positive elements that came from the classroom model that has been used for the past 60 years, statistics have repeatedly shown that it is not effective for helping children maintain their Catholic faith.

Nearly 1 in 5 adults under the age of 30 say they were raised in a religion but are now unaffiliated with any particular faith. About 80% of those walking away do so by the time they reach college age with a median age of disaffiliation being 13 years old! If the median age is 13, we need to be doing all that we can to reach children prior to the age of 13.

“The main difference between the average child who retains the religious commitment of their parents and one that drifts from Catholicism is not the influence of peers, mass media figures, clergy or youth ministers, but the quality of religious upbringing provided by their parents.”
(Bartkus, Parents: The decisive agents of religious outcomes of Youth)

We want to help support parents in the religious upbringing of their children. Parishes can contribute significantly to the formation and retention of young Catholics, but the usual condition for the possibility of children remaining in the faith is the presence of strong parental witness in the home

Am I qualified as a parent to instruct my child in the faith?

We know from quantitative data that the religiosity of the parents is the single most influential factor in predicting whether or not a young person will practice religion as an adult. (National Study of Youth and Religion, Dr. Christian Smith).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 2221) states that “the role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute” Rather than trying to provide a substitution of the classroom, we want to empower and equip you for this responsibility.

Parents do not need special training in religion to impact their children. What is needed is conversation about the faith, modeling of prayer, and the ability to share what Jesus is doing in your life. Sometimes this is with words, but often it is through acts of service done with love, both the many acts that occur in the home and those that occur out of the home. The relationship and the trust that you have with your child is the most important element in this process! When we grow deeper in relating well with others, we automatically grow closer to God.

Practical Q&A

What will happen during our the monthly Community Night, typically held on the first Tuesday of each month (except in January, 2024)?

Our regularly scheduled Tuesday daily Mass at 6pm is a great way to start off our time together with worship for both parent(s) and children! Daily Mass is shorter (usually 25-30 minutes) and the simplicity allows children to better grasp the structure of our worship. We hear the story of God's love for us in Scripture and we are strengthened by receiving our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. For those who have not received their First Communion yet, exposure at Mass helps them to become familiar with Mass and to look forward to receiving Jesus for the first time.

If your family's schedule makes it difficult to be here by 6pm, just join us in the FFC at 6:30pm.

Fr. Dury will direct his homily to the children during Mass. After Mass, we will move to the FFC for activities, treats, and community building activities centered around a common theme to help us grow in our relationship with each other and in knowing Jesus. Parents and children attend together. We will have activities for children grades 1-4 in the Upper FFC and for Middle School and High School in the lower FFC Youth Space and renovated classrooms. Child care will also be available in our nursery. Younger siblings are welcome to attend Community Night at their parents' discretion.

Community Night ends with a decade of the Rosary at 7:30 pm.

Second Tuesday (see calendar for exception in January, 2024)

Seek and Root: this is for families who have a first grader (or those families with a second grader who feel they want to have a stronger connection with why faith is important in our lives). If your family has been inactive for awhile this would also be a great option to re-engage your family in your faith and relationship with Jesus. Parents and children come together for the opening and closing prayer but then go to separate areas for the study portion. Children will have a fun Vacation Bible School type experience with lots of activities. Parents will meet in small groups with other parents for a guided discussion. Both Seek and Root begin at 6pm in the FFC with pizza!

Select Fourth Tuesdays

Parents only night. Join with other parents for a brief teaching on strengthening faith in our families. Then meet in small groups with other parents to build community and seek support in raising our children. Childcare for children 10 and under will be available in our nursery.

Pathways Materials

Depending on your family's path for the year, you might be taking home a box to assist you with family meetings at home. Seek and Root, while mostly done on campus, are also Pathways materials. More information on these materials can be found at www.fflcm.org (Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries).

Bob Steinbauer, Christina Weber and Julie Bando are all available for you to contact with questions or for support.

My child needs to make Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion. What do we do for that?

We will be using the Pathway materials, Mend for First Reconciliation and Nourish for Communion. These are take home materials designed to help with a family meeting to share experiences while gently teaching the faith. Both Mend and Nourish also have at church support sessions. These sessions will take place on select Sundays between our two Sunday morning Masses (approximately 10:05-10:55 am). Children will meet with other peers in the Youth Space while parents will meet in small groups with other parents and facilitators to discuss the material.

What is the tuition rate for our family to participate in religious education from grades 1-12?

Each family that is registered for religious education from grades 1-12 (this includes A Family of Faith and Growing Up Catholic Sacramental Preparation, middle school and high school programs) will be charged \$225. This is a family rate, regardless of how many children you have participating in the program. This family fee applies for religious education programming from grades 1-12. Please contact Jennifer Glassmire for any questions about taking care of payment.