

Saint Mary's Parish

One Power Street Norton, Massachusetts 02766 Phone 508-285-3237 <u>stmarysnorton.com</u>

Office of Faith Formation

Welcome to the 2025-26 year!

I hope that everyone is having a splendid summer! Take time to admire and appreciate some of the gifts that God gives us each day! Being together and enjoying a beautiful day, "smelling the roses" and attending Mass as a family are great ways to grow closer to God when the pace of busy school schedules and sports lightens up.

Our program made some wonderful changes last year and we are very excited to bring some of those changes forward again this year! We will be continuing our monthly Faith Formation Mass in lieu of classes with a kick off Mass on September 21st, to welcome our catechists, families and students back. Additionally, families can look forward to seeing Mrs. MacDonald directing the program for Grades 1-9 again this year as well as Mrs. Conroy assisting in the day to day classes and planning and many of our catechists who volunteered last year!

The class meeting times and format will remain the same as last year. Currently, we do not plan to have Tuesday classes.

Please pay close attention to the schedule on the back of this sheet for class times and requirements.

As director of the Saint Mary's Faith Formation Programs, I have been very busy planning what the Program will look like for 2025-26. I am excited for this new year to begin and look forward to the many opportunities ahead for families to be involved and to reinforce what it means to reach out and share our faith with each other, including bringing back monthly Masses for our students and families.

We continue to grow in faith and to adjust our program based upon the needs of our parish families. Our work is an ongoing ministry that needs the help of many in order to be a success. Please consider helping out in our Faith Formation Program in some way. We are ALWAYS looking for parents and previously confirmed students to teach, assist or be a hall monitor.

Included in this packet is a registration form. Please register your child(ren) for our fall classes as we are now enrolling. Please remember that Sacramental Preparation years (typically grades 1 & 2 and 8 & 9) are offered as two-year programs and must be completed in person in our classrooms due to the nature of the curriculum and the requirements of the Diocese of Fall River.

We look forward to another successful and faith filled year as we welcome new students and catechists to our Saint Mary's family.

Our Faith Formation Schedule for 2025-26:

<u>Grades 1-5</u> Sundays 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Mondays 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

Grades 6-9 Sundays 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (every other week)

*Grades 1-9 are expected to attend the 10:30 AM Mass on the <u>first Sunday of the month</u> with their family in lieu of class times**

Absences: Children are expected to attend ALL class times and grade level masses. We understand that life happens and families get sick or have conflicts. Children in grades 1-5 are only allowed <u>3</u> unexcused absences during the year. Children in grades 6-9 are only allowed <u>1</u>. All lessons will be available for make-up as needed. Please call or email when you know that your child will be absent.

Please pay special attention to the master calendar for specific dates, times and special events for each grade level.

Registration and Retreat Fees- (We always try to keep our costs low, however due to the rising cost of books and materials, we have had to increase our registration fees by \$5.00. We hope that you understand.)

Registration Fee

1 child \$ 70 2 children \$ 115 3+ children \$ 150

After October 1st a late fee of \$10 will be added to your bill. This will help defer the cost of additional shipping fees for supplies.

All volunteer teachers have their registration fees waived.

Additional Fees for Retreat

Grade 1 \$10 Grade 2 \$20 Grade 8 \$30

Grade 9 \$45 (includes robe rental fee for Confirmation)

Homeschool Material Fee

\$20.00 per child (if doing homeschool in the summer or concurrently with in-person classes in the fall)

All registration fees are due at the time of registration, but we understand if you need to delay the payment or need assistance with the fees. Please **DO NOT** delay in registering due to financial concerns. Please call the office and let us know what we can do to help your family.

Please return the forms as soon as possible either by mail, placing them in the basket at Mass, or using the black mailbox by the main door of the parish center.

I am looking for teachers and substitutes on all days and grades. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering at dre@stmarysnorton.com or by phone 508-285-3237.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in the fall!

Elizabeth MacDonald

Director of Faith Formation (Grades 1-9)