



Saint Mary's Faith Formation Program

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Welcome to the 2024-25 year!

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

Our program has had a few changes since classes last met in April. Our co-director of Faith Formation for grades 6-9 has stepped down from her role to focus on raising her beautiful baby girl. We are currently working on filling the co-director position. Families can look forward to Mrs. MacDonald overseeing the Program for Grades 6-9 while continuing to plan for grades 1-5 until the co-director position is filled.

The Class meeting times and format have also undergone some changes as there will not be any Tuesday classes offered this year. **Please pay close attention to the new schedule on the back of this sheet for class times and requirements.**

As co-director of the Saint Mary's Faith Formation Programs, I have been very busy planning what the Program will look like for 2024-25. 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.

I have learned a lot in my full second year in this role, and I have been blessed to have met so many families, individual parishioners and especially so many devoted catechists. As I did at this time last year, I would like to share with you some of the successes that Faith Formation had this past year. In our classes, with the help of many catechists and assistants, we taught 272 children. Thirty eight (38) of these children were able to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist and another forty (40) made their Confirmation. We held a Thanksgiving Mass that was standing room only with our younger parishioners and their families as well as many of you. Classes came together to create blessing bags with the items that were offered at that mass, that you all distributed to the needy and homeless. We had retreats for various grade levels and a 4th Watch night of adoration and devotion that was both moving and motivational for our youth and their parents. There were many other events spread throughout our faith formation year that we don't have enough time to mention right now. But I, along with our parish staff, are excited for this new year and look forward to having more opportunities to get families involved and to reinforce what it means to be a community in faith.

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 classes due to the nature and the requirements of the Diocese of Fall River.

Our new Faith Formation Schedule for 2024-25:

Grades 1-5 Sundays 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

Mondays 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

Grades 1-5 are expected to attend the 10:30 am Mass on the first Sunday of the month with their family in lieu of class times

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

Grades 6-9 are expected to attend the 10:30 am Mass on the last Sunday of the month 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 are only allowed 3 unexcused absences during the year. 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

Registration Fee	
1 child	\$65
2 children	\$110
3 + children	\$145

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)

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