

2021-2022
Family Faith Formation Program



St. Clare of Assisi Parish
Faith Formation



2021 – 2022 Family Faith Formation Program

This year we will be transitioning into a Family Faith Formation Program that is year-round. The program will encompass Formation Gatherings, Parish Family Events, Liturgical Gatherings & Service Projects. You will have the option to choose which Formation Gathering set you would like, but all other requirements for all children will be the same.

Below you will find a table of how the requirements will work – detail on each of these requirements will be further in the policy.

Formation Gatherings for the St. Michael & St. Joseph Groups will be for the children only except for August 11 which will be for children and parents. Formation Gatherings for the St. John & St. Clare Groups will be for children and their parents. Our gatherings will have a theme and they will be the same for all children no matter what group they are in. With our online platform from our new publisher all lessons for all children will be completed at home with their parents.

	Formation Gatherings	Parish Family Events	Liturgical Gatherings Advent & Lent	Service Projects	Total Requirements
St. Michael Gatherings <i>Aug 9-13 Mornings</i>	4	4	2	3	13
St. Joseph Gatherings <i>Aug 9-13 Afternoons</i>	4	4	2	3	13
St. John Gatherings <i>Monday Evenings</i>	6	2	2	3	13
St. Clare Gatherings <i>Saturday Mornings</i>	6	2	2	3	13

Once a family is successfully enrolled in a Formation Gathering Model, they will receive a personalized Family Faith Formation Policy to sign that outlines all requirements.



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Levels Available

St. Clare of Assisi Parish Family Faith Formation Program offers classes for children in First through Fifth levels. (Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Levels participate in VISION, St. Clare's Middle School Program). The Family Faith Formation Program is a yearlong program with a focus on providing formation for both children and their families. The program will include Formation Gatherings, Parish Family Events, Service Projects & Liturgical Year Gatherings. Children participating in the Family Faith Formation Program, who apply to prepare for and receive the sacraments must attend the separate preparation sessions offered by the Office of Sacrament Preparation.

Registration

Application to enter the Family Faith Formation Program is open to all but acceptance to one of the specific gathering models is not guaranteed. Four options for Formation Gatherings will be offered this year. All options are contingent on enough children enrolling.

St. Michael Gatherings: August 9, 10, 12 & 13 (9-11 AM) – IN PERSON ONLY

Children only attend these mornings – children & parent will attend on Aug 11 for Service

St. Joseph Gatherings: August 9, 10, 12 & 13 (1-3 PM) – IN PERSON ONLY

Children only attend these afternoons – children & parent will attend on Aug 11 for Service

St. John Gatherings: 6 Monday Evenings (1 in Oct, Nov, Dec, Feb, Mar, Apr) – HYBRID

Children & Parent attend all these evenings

St. Clare Gatherings: 6 Saturday Mornings (1 in Oct, Nov, Dec, Feb, Mar, Apr) – HYBRID

Children & Parent attend all these mornings

Registration priority is based on a multitude of criteria including successful completion of previous year's requirements, previous behavior issues, and compliance with all program policies including financial obligations unless you have contacted the Pastor and CRE. A meeting with the Pastor and CRE maybe scheduled to establish acceptance into the program if above criteria is not met.

The Office of Faith Formation reserves the right to adjust the number of accepted registrations for the each of the Family Faith Formation Program gathering models, annually. Admittance to one option the prior year does not guarantee a place for the student in the following year.

Upon acceptance into the program, a student's parent/guardian must acknowledge that they have completely read and fully understand the policy by signing the last page of policy statement.

There is no set fee for Faith Formation instead we ask you to support both the parish and our Faith Formation program and consider contributing \$35 per month. (12-month donation schedule) While some families can contribute more and some less, that \$35 monthly offering goes a long way in



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supporting the work of forming the young people in our parish. We will be utilizing envelopes this year and will provide each family with a box for your child to use when they come to Mass. Families may continue giving online and those families who have not set up online giving will be asked to do so prior to being accepted into the program. When considering your monthly donation and you are unable to commit to \$35 per month, please contact the CRE, we may be able to assist you with alternative options that are available. If contributing \$35 per month, there will be no sacrament fees charged.

Communication

The Office of Faith Formation will utilize email, Remind.com, Facebook, and the Office of Faith Formation webpage on the parish website as its primary forms of communication with the Family Faith Formation Program families, throughout the year. At the beginning of each month there will be a list of activities or information available on the website, please check the website regularly. *It is solely the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the office to update e-mail addresses and phone numbers should this information change.*

Materials & Workbooks

We have changed publishers and we will be utilizing an online platform curriculum. All accepted families into the program will attend a virtual learning class so they can become familiar on how the curriculum will be used for the year. In addition to the new curriculum, we will utilize the website to upload other materials for parents to discuss with your child/ren. Children enrolled in Levels 1 & 2 will also receive an activity book to supplement the online lessons.

Lessons

All children will complete their lessons online through our new publisher. A lesson plan guide will be provided to all children in the program in August. Lessons will be assigned from August to April for all children with a Christmas Recess. All children will follow the same lesson plans completing their assigned work at home with their parents. Lessons are to be completed by the due date - if you need extra time, it will be the family's responsibility to reach out to the Office of Faith Formation.

Formation Gatherings

Attendance will be taken at all gatherings. If for some reason a child misses a gathering, they will need to make it up by attending the corresponding gathering in another session. Our gatherings will be theme based with all children no matter the level learning together - break out sessions will be utilized as well.

St. Michael & St. Joseph Gatherings: These Formation Gatherings will only be offered in person; if you are not comfortable with your child/ren attending in person gatherings please DO NOT select one of these options. Children only will attend on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. Children and parents will be expected to attend on Wednesday to complete a Service Project.



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St. John & St. Clare Gatherings: These Formation Gatherings will be hybrid with an emphasis on in person. These gatherings are for the children and at least one parent.

Parish Family Events

When attending these events, all children from the family who are enrolled in the Family Faith Formation Program are required to attend, it is not parent only or 1 out of 3 children. **These events can only be completed at St. Clare of Assisi Parish**, so the families can grow together within the parish community. We will offer in person and remote opportunities.

Your Formation Gathering selection will determine the number of Parish Family Events you need. If your child is in enrolled the St. Michael's or St. Joseph's gatherings, they will be required to complete 2 additional Parish Family Events since they only have 4 Formation Gatherings.

Each month there will be a list of events scheduled so that you have opportunities to attend. We will schedule events in October – December & then February – April. Please make every attempt to attend an event per month rather than completing them all at once or leaving them all to the end of the semester. Sign-ups will be required to accommodate everyone & if more than one scheduled event is needed. *A tentative list of events is attached to the policy.*

Liturgical Gatherings

In order that students learn the spiritual significance surrounding the Holy Days and the significance of the Church's liturgical calendar, students will be asked to participate in (2) Liturgical Gatherings, one to be held during Advent and one to be held during Lent.

Service Projects

Students in the Family Faith Formation Program are required to provide proof of service to others. Students are welcome to participate in the Service Opportunities posted on the Office of Faith Formation webpage. Children are required to complete (2) Corporal Works of Mercy & (1) Spiritual Works of Mercy. Children participating in the St. Michael or St. Joseph Gatherings will complete 1 Corporal Work of Mercy on the Wednesday with their parents. They will then be responsible for the remaining Corporal Work of Mercy in the Spring Semester due by April 22nd. For children enrolled in the St. John or St. Clare Gatherings the 1st Corporal Work of Mercy Service form is due no later than December 1st and 2nd Service form is due no later than April 22nd. All Spiritual Work of Mercy forms for all children will be due by March 16th.

Parent Participation

As the primary teachers of our children in their faith, Parent Participation is critical. Children will be expected to complete their lessons with the supervision of their parents. Depending on the Formation Gathering model you select you may be expected to attend the formation gatherings as well.



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Prayers

All children should know their previous year level prayer for the first day of class. A link to the prayers to know can be found on the website. Children may be asked to individually recite the prayer during the week they attend.

Mass Attendance

St. Clare's Family Faith Formation Program is not meant to be a short-cut to avoid investing time for the children's religious formation. It does even more clearly demonstrate that the responsibility for this formation is with the parent, as the parent is the child's primary source of religious education. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

Church attendance is integral to formation but even greater than this, it is required of all to attend Saturday or Sunday Mass. This, and partaking of the sacraments including Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist are ever important and the parent's signing of the policy, the parent/guardian acknowledges this and promises to abide by this and all the precepts of the Catholic Church. Please remember: the precepts of the Catholic Church are *minimum* levels of participation in the life of the Church. Out of love for Christ and a desire to advance in the spiritual life, you will normally try to do far more than they require.

Promotion

All students from Level 1 to Level 4 will be promoted to the next grade after successfully completing all Family Faith Formation Program requirements. The decision to retain a student in the same grade or eligibility status for Family Faith Formation Program the following year, will be taken after considering the guidelines included in this policy. Children in Level 5 must also meet all requirements to be eligible to enter the Vision Program that starts in Level 6. Requirements that are not met in a previous year may be added to the following year at the discretion of the Office of Faith Formation.

Non-Completion

Should a child be unable to complete all requirements listed on the first page, parent/guardian will be required to attend a meeting with the Pastor & Coordinator of Faith Formation before registering for the 2022-2023 school year. Sacrament preparation may also be delayed due to non-completion of the school year requirements.

* The Office of Faith Formation reserves the right to edit/amend and make additions to this policy.



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Tentative Event List – *Actual event list will be uploaded to the website once the program begins in August*

Events for each semester are listed below. As on-site events resume, the Office of Faith Formation will notify families as to changes/alterations to the below schedule of events. Each family will choose Parish Family events from each semester group to participate in & attend (1) Liturgical Gathering per semester. More information for events, along with criteria, will go out once program has begun. This is a tentative list & subject to change. Please keep in mind that sign ups are required for most events for two reasons: (1) to make sure we have enough room and (2) to make sure we are only reaching out to the families that are interested in that particular event.

Semester 1 Parish Family Events

- October** **Blessing of Animals - sign ups required**
- Holy Family Kit - sign ups required - Flipgrid** (may only use once for credit)
- Family Rosary - sign ups required -** (may only use once for credit)
- November** **Cathedral Kitchen - PB&J - sign ups required -Flipgrid** (may only use once for credit)
- Family Rosary - sign ups required -** (may only use once for credit)
- Holy Family Kit - sign ups required - Flipgrid** (may only use once for credit)
- December** **Cathedral Kitchen - PB&J - sign ups required -Flipgrid** (may only use once for credit)

Semester 2 Parish Family Events

- February** **Holy Family Kit - sign ups required - Flipgrid** (may only use once for credit)
- Family Rosary - sign ups required -** (may only use once for credit)
- Cathedral Kitchen - PB&J - sign ups required -Flipgrid** (may only use once for credit)
- March** **Stations of the Cross - sign ups required - (onsite) grade levels 3rd – 5th**
- Family Rosary** - sign ups required - ZOOM gathering - grade levels 2nd – 5th**
- April** **Stations of the Cross - sign ups required - (onsite) grade levels 3rd – 5th**
- Family Rosary** - sign ups required -** (may only use once for credit)