



St. Mary of the Assumption Faith Formation Office

2 St. Mary's Hill, Lancaster, NY 14086

Becky Hoag, Director of Faith Formation

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2022-2023 Faith Formation Program information

St. Mary's Parish offers faith formation for students in kindergarten through grade ten. Please take a few moments to read about the different programs being offered. If you have any questions, contact the faith formation office. The faith formation program typically runs from September through April.

This year, all families (K – 10th grade) are required to attend our monthly *Family of Faith* family sessions. You will have a choice of 3 days/times to attend this monthly session with your family.

Grades K-5 Saturday Morning: This is our traditional classroom program, with volunteer catechists teaching students by grade level. It meets weekly on Saturday mornings from 9:30-10:45 am. Families will attend the monthly *Family of Faith* family sessions.

Grades 6-8 Tuesday Evenings: A continuation of our traditional classroom program, middle school students meet on a weekly basis from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Families will attend the monthly *Family of Faith* family sessions.

Grades K-8 Home Study: Families will attend the monthly *Family of Faith* family sessions and then teach/share the faith in the home. The books/curriculum will be supplied to you. During the weeks between meetings, parents work with their children on additional learning activities. Children will be required to submit online chapter reviews to show what they have learned.

High School Traditional: Open to grades 9 and 10. This program meets on Sunday mornings 1-2 times per month. ***Students are required to attend the 10:00 AM Mass before class*** and class will follow Mass from 11:15 am – 12:45 pm. Families will attend the monthly *Family of Faith* family sessions.

High School Service – Middle School Leaders: Open to grades 9 and 10. Teens who select this option will assist with our middle school classes taking place on Tuesday evenings 6:00 – 7:30 pm. After each class, teens will summarize what they learned by being present in class and how their assistance helped both the catechists and students. Families will attend the monthly *Family of Faith* family sessions.

ADULTS Coffee & Catechesis (optional): 1 time per month on Saturday mornings from 9:30-10:45 am. Parents/guardians are invited to stay and participate in a video-based faith study program. We will begin with ***PRESENCE – THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST!*** Each month we will view a short video and hold a discussion and share faith. ***Program Description:** *Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life. Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation.*

***Students & Families in all of the above programs participate in our monthly Family of Faith sessions (you choose a day/time).** During these weekends, entire families gather and explore our faith. Families have a choice of attending on Saturday from 9:30-11:00 am, Sunday from 10:15 am – 11:45 am, or Monday from 6:00-7:30 pm.



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God's Family: Faith Formation Supporting Persons with Disabilities and their Families

God's Family was created to serve families who have members, young and old, with special needs, providing a welcoming, faith-filled community for persons with special physical, cognitive, or emotional needs. This program offers support for both parents and siblings. God's Family is held once per month at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Cheektowaga on Saturdays from 12- 2:30 pm or at St. Bernadette Parish in Orchard Park on Saturdays from 9:30-1:30 pm.

Sacraments: Second graders are invited to celebrate First **Reconciliation**, and third graders are invited to celebrate First **Eucharist**. Preparation (6 dedicated sessions) for these sacraments is done in partnership with families, under the guidance of the Director of Faith Formation. For families who choose the classroom model Saturday classes, Catechists will begin sacrament preparatory sessions in the classroom and parents will complete what was started at home. *Home study families will complete all of the 6 sessions at home.* Both parents and children are asked to participate in a retreat and teaching Mass. During this time of preparation, children are enrolled in either the faith formation program or a Catholic School.

Confirmation: After completing grades 9 and 10 faith formation classes or Catholic high school religion classes, students are eligible to prepare for Confirmation. This is a separate preparation program, and registration will begin once religious education classes are finished for the school year. Confirmation preparation takes place during the summer months following 10th grade. Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place in the fall of 11th grade.

Volunteer Opportunities: For those interested (adults & teens in grades 9-10), we have volunteer opportunities as catechists & classroom aides. We also need assistance with our monthly Family of Faith sessions, sacramental retreats, and Vacation Bible School. Please contact Becky Hoag, Director of Faith Formation, if interested in volunteering.

Saturday High School Volunteer Opportunity: Open to grades 9 and 10. We need assistants! This special service opportunity will count toward volunteer hours that the teens may need for their high school and/or club requirements. ***Please note that assisting on Saturdays does not count towards their faith formation requirements.*** This opportunity does not take the place of the high school Sunday classes. It would be in addition to them.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (Volunteer Opportunity) is offered each week during the 10 a.m. Mass. High School assistants and Adult leaders are needed. This will count toward volunteer service hours.

Vacation Bible School (Volunteer Opportunity) is offered during the summer. Youth and teens (grades 6-12) are invited to assist and help lead. This will count toward volunteer service hours.