



St. Mary's Catholic Church Children's Faith Formation 2019-2020

Early Childhood Faith Formation
Children's Faith Formation
Summer Programs



St. Mary's Church

2211 East Lakeview Drive
Johnson City, Tennessee 37601
423-282-6367
Fax: 282-6145

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to St. Mary's Faith Formation program for 2019-2020.

We appreciate the opportunity to work as partners with you, the parents and the primary educators of your children. Our ***Catechism of the Catholic Church*** gives us guidance on this in **CCC 2221-2231**. Our catechists are support educators for parents, responding with their gifts of model, catechizing, and Catholic morality to ensure growth for your child in our faith.

Participation in faith formation programs for students, grades 1-6, is required if they are not enrolled as a student at St. Mary's Catholic School. Middle school and high school youth are expected to participate in their youth ministry program which incorporates the seven components of youth ministry as outlined in "Renewing the Vision," the document published by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops.

As we begin our parish faith formation programs for 2019-2020, please take some time to read the information provided in this handbook. It will provide you with specific information you will need throughout the year. It offers information about the procedures of this program. Students and parents should read the handbook together. Parents should keep this handbook for future reference, to ensure an enjoyable and informed school year.

If you wish to volunteer, have any concerns, or have any questions, use the contact information in the back of this Handbook for the various programs. We are delighted to have you join us as an active and involved member of our Faith Formation Family!

May God Bless you and your family,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Holt".

Judy Holt
Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

Diocesan Policy for Reporting Sexual Abuse:

Anyone who has actual knowledge of or who has reasonable cause to suspect an incident of sexual abuse should report such information to the appropriate civil authorities first, then to the bishop's office, 865-584-3307, or the diocesan victims' assistance coordinator, Marla Lenihan, 865-482-1388.

General Information

Students who wish to participate in any of the preparation programs to receive a sacrament must be enrolled in the parish faith formation program at least one year prior to enrolling in the sacramental preparation program. Also note that the preparation process and fees for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is in addition to the Children's Faith Formation program and/or religion classes at St. Mary's Catholic School.

Calendars will be provided to individuals registered. All calendars will be posted on the church website (www.stmarysjc.org) for easy access to all parishioners and visitors. Go to the Faith Formation tab to access the calendars.

In order to provide the children of our parish with a quality, approved program, we must charge fees to cover the costs of supplies and materials. ***All fees must be paid at the beginning of the school year.*** In cases of financial hardship, the family must contact the Children's Faith Formation Coordinator.

Class begins at 6:30 sharp. Please do not bring your child to the classroom prior to 6:30pm, as our catechists may be doing class prep and may not be in their rooms. Never leave your child in a classroom unattended. Children must be walked to their classrooms by the parent or another adult designated by the parent. Classes are dismissed at 7:45 promptly. Parents may wait in the hall for the signal of the end of classes. Children are to be picked up at the end of class by the parent or another designated adult.

Please remind you child not to bring toys, stuffed animals, and electronics to Faith Formation. St. Mary's cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen items.

The attire for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry should be comfortable, but appropriate for school or church. The exception would be students coming directly from a sport practice. Short-shorts, tank tops, tube tops, crop tops (anything that does not cover the midriff, or does not properly cover bra straps), and t-shirts with inappropriate language or advertising are not considered proper attire. Inappropriate attire will be addressed with the parents and the student may be removed from class for that day. For the safety of all, children are not allowed to wear shoes with "built-in wheels" or spikes/cleats. We recommend that students wear athletic-type shoes which completely cover the feet.

Any child who was home from school for illness should be kept home until there is no fever for 24 hours, just as you would for regular schooling. If your child is at Children's Faith Formation and is sick, we will call you or your emergency contact, so please be sure to keep those numbers up to date.

During inclement weather, we follow the Johnson City Schools' policy (if the Johnson City Schools are closed, or if schools will be closed the next day due to the weather, we will not have class). Road conditions are not the same in all areas, so please use your own best judgment concerning safety in driving. Cancellation of Wednesday evening classes or activities will be posted on the parish website and sent to any parents with a registered email address. When possible, the decision will be made prior to 3:00 pm. All families are encouraged to share the cancellation with other families so everyone is notified.

All families are asked to participate in volunteer hours in some aspect of parish life. (This is a vital part of stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.) The success of the St. Mary's Faith Formation program depends on volunteerism. Without the generosity of many volunteers, our faith formation programs would not be possible. Women and men share their time in preparation and implementation of sessions

for children, youth, and adults. Everyone is encouraged to become involved and volunteer their time to making our programs successful. Opportunities range from one-time commitments to a regular weekly commitment. As stewards of our gifts and in response to our baptismal call, we have a responsibility to serve. We strongly encourage parents and grandparents to become VIRTUS trained in order to be able to work with the youth of our parish in any capacity. The one-time training is FREE and only takes 3 hours. Only volunteers 18 years and older must be trained. The Diocese of Knoxville will offer several opportunities for you to attend a VIRTUS child protection workshop. For information and registration, go to www.virtus.org.

CFF Catechist/Teacher (Wednesday and Sunday)	CFF Classroom Aide (Wednesday and Sunday)	CFF Classroom Substitute (Wednesday and Sunday)	CFF Canned Food Drive
Vacation Bible School			

In order to volunteer for the above positions, use the contact information at the back of this handbook.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE PROGRAM (October)

The Diocese of Knoxville has implemented a safe environment program for the protection of all children. This program provides children and parents with good information about how to take steps to foster safe environments, wherever they may be.

The program has two phases: the first involves you, the parent, in the sharing of information with your child, and the subsequent discussion; the second involves the Parish Faith Formation Program in follow-up training. This letter is to let you know that our parish will be reviewing this material with your child/children during the month of October. A copy of this information by grade level is included below. This training is meant to supplement what you the parents have already undertaken.

If for some reason, a parent chooses not to allow their child to attend the Keeping Kids Safe lesson, when you registered your child, you were given the opportunity to complete an opt-out form which fulfills our program requirement and entrusts you with teaching your child these important safeguards. This opt-out form must be signed by the parent and returned to the Faith Formation office by October 16th.

Unless we have a signed OPT-OUT form prior to the October 23rd class, your child will be taught the following information in age-appropriate activities and format:

Best Practices for Parents

- Make time to communicate with your children, and don't forget that the most important part of communication is listening.
- Be familiar with your children's friends and activities. Know where your children are and the people they are with.
- Acquaint yourselves with the family composition of the homes where your children spend time. Is there adult supervision? Are there older brothers and/or male teenagers around? Does the single mom have a boyfriend present?
- Screen babysitters carefully; check references before entrusting your children to anyone.
- Never force children to touch, hug or kiss someone whom they don't want to. Forcing them to do this teaches them that it is okay for adults to impose themselves on children.
- Perpetrators start young; be aware of any children who violate the boundaries of other children. Older siblings perpetrating on younger siblings is a very common form of child abuse.

- Teach your children to trust their instincts, and give them permission to say “NO” to what they think is wrong.
- Teach your children that a good secret is one that will eventually be told, like a surprise party. Bad secrets are often used to cover up wrongdoing.
- Understand that abusers often build trust with parents for the sole purpose of gaining access to their children.
- Teach your children to tell you if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable, or touches them inappropriately and believe them if they do.
- Be alert to your child’s expressing fear or sudden dislike of someone.
- Monitor your children’s Internet use, and keep computers in a public area of the house.
- Be sensitive to changes in your children’s behavior; talk to them about the changes when you notice them.

What to Say to Children Through Fifth Grade

- If we ever get separated at the mall or other public place, go to a clerk and say that you lost your parents.
- Don’t ever get into a car with someone, unless we have said it is okay.
- Grownups should always ask other grownups for help. If an adult asks you for help, walk away without answering.
- Don’t answer the door if we’re not home.
- If a car pulls up near you, walk quickly in the opposite direction that the car is traveling.
- Never believe anyone who tells you that we’re in trouble and that he/she is going to take you to us.
- Yell, scream, and kick if someone tries to take you somewhere. Shout, “This is not my daddy/mommy.”
- Never leave the yard or play area without telling us.
- Your body is special and private. No one should ever touch you on the parts of your body that your bathing suit covers. If anyone ever does this, tell us right away.
- Let us know if someone tells you a secret and doesn’t want you to tell us.
- Tell us immediately if someone gives you a gift, especially if it’s supposed to be a secret.
- Just because someone calls you by name doesn’t mean that he/she knows you.
- Never give personal information over the Internet. Never agree to meet someone you have met on the Internet.

What to Say to Youth Through High School Years

- Contracts signed by minors are not legally binding without parental consent.
- You must get our permission before you accept a job from anyone.
- Walk with confidence and purpose in public. Be alert and aware of your surroundings and who is in the vicinity.
- Dating should be a fun experience and you should never allow yourself to be coerced into doing anything that you know is wrong.
- It is okay to be rude to someone who is trying to get you to do something that is wrong.
- “Date rape” accounts for the vast majority of teenage rapes. Just because you are on a date does not mean that you cannot say, “No.” When you say, “No,” that response should be respected.
- Never leave an opened can of soda some place where you can’t see it. Get your own drink so you know exactly what is in it. If you start to feel sick or dizzy, tell a friend to call us immediately, and we will come and get you, no questions asked.

- Perpetrators rely on our tendency to avoid making scenes in public; it is okay to make a scene to stop someone from taking advantage of you.
- If you are ever in an uncomfortable situation and need a ride home, call us and we will pick you up, and you will not get in trouble.
- Never do anything with your peers that you would not do if we were present, or if you were alone. "Group think" is usually not wiser than an individual's independent thinking.
- Never give personal information over the internet. Never agree to meet anyone you have met through the Internet.

Early Childhood Faith Formation

Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 1

Sundays, 10:00 – 11:00 am

- (1) The sessions for early childhood faith formation are offered on Sunday mornings (except the second Sunday of each month). We celebrate our Youth Mass on the second Sunday of each month and will involve all the children and youth of our parish.
- (2) Children begin at Mass with their parents. Following the opening prayer at Mass, the children will be dismissed to the art room at St. Mary's Catholic School for their class session.
- (3) It is important for children to be present for the gathering song and introductory rite prior to their dismissal to hear and study God's Word so please make every effort to arrive on time to Mass.
- (4) When Mass is concluded, parents will come to the art room and pick up their children.
- (5) All parents are asked to volunteer to assist with at least one session during the year. Please sign up at the first session.
- (6) There is a parent guide (English and Spanish) on the webpage for Pflaum Gospel Weeklies: www.pflaumgospelweeklies.com (online resource tab – *The Gospel at Home*).

OR

Early Childhood Faith Formation

Grade Kindergarten

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm

- (1) An alternate session for the Kindergarten early childhood faith formation will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:45 pm.
- (2) If you enroll your child for the Wednesday evening class, going to the Sunday morning class is not an option. Your child will be assigned to class on Wednesday evenings.
- (3) Follow the instructions for the Children's Faith Formation Grades 2-6.
- (4) There is a parent guide (English and Spanish) on the webpage for Pflaum Gospel Weeklies: www.pflaumgospelweeklies.com (online resource tab – *The Gospel at Home*).

Early Childhood Faith Formation

Grade 1

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm

- (1) An alternate session for the 1st Grade early childhood faith formation will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:45 pm.
- (2) If you enroll your child for the Wednesday evening class, going to the Sunday morning class is not an option. Your child will be assigned to class on Wednesday evenings.
- (3) Follow the instructions for the Children's Faith Formation Grades 2-6.

- (4) The 1st Grade on Wednesday will be using the Ignatius Press *Faith in Life* series and *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*.

Children's Faith Formation

Grades 2 – 6

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm

- (1) All students must be escorted to and from their classroom by a parent or other designated adult using the main entrance of St. Mary's Catholic School.
- (2) Classes begin at 6:30 pm and end at 7:45 pm. Your cooperation in being punctual is appreciated. Please do not drop your child off early.
- (3) On several Wednesdays during the year, we will be celebrating Mass for special occasions. Please note that these are not optional sessions and parents should make plans to celebrate with the participants in the programs. Children will sit with their class.
- (4) Parents are always welcome ... and encouraged ... to visit their child's class on Wednesday evening.
- (5) Grades 2-6 will be using the Ignatius Press *Faith in Life* series.

Vacation Bible School

- (1) The week long summer catechetical program is offered June 10-14, 2019. Grades 1-6 meet Monday through Friday from 8:45-12:30 pm.
- (2) Registration information will be available in the spring.

PRAYERS AND PRACTICES STUDY GUIDE

Please practice with your child.

PK and K Should Know

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The Angel of God

Angel of God, my Guardian Dear, to whom His love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

1st Graders Should Know

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

And all previous prayers.....

2nd Graders Should Know

Act of Sorrow/ Contrition

My, God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have sinned against you, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us.

In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

And all previous prayers.....

3rd Graders Should Know

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, *(At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.)*

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Great Commandments

You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with your whole mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Four Marks of the Church

1. One
2. Holy
3. Catholic
4. Apostolic

And all previous prayers.....

4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Should Know

Act of FAITH

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. Amen.

Act of HOPE

O my God, relying on Your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Act of LOVE

O my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed people who are hungry. Give drink to people who are thirsty. Clothe people who need clothes. Visit prisoners. Shelter people who are homeless. Visit people who are sick. Bury people who have died.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Help people who sin. Teach people who are ignorant. Give advice to people who have doubts. Comfort people who suffer. Be patient with other people. Forgive people who hurt you. Pray for people who are alive and for those who have died.

The Beatitudes:

Blessed are **the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are **they who mourn**, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are **the meek**, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are **they who hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are **the merciful**, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are **the clean of heart**, for they will see God.

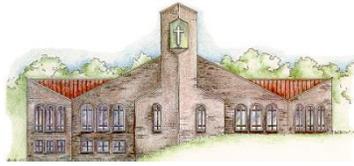
Blessed are **the peacemakers**, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Seven Sacraments

Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, Matrimony

And all previous prayers.....



Judy Holt

Children's Faith Formation Coordinator

St. Mary's Church

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Children's Faith Formation Calendar 2019-2020

Wednesday Evenings

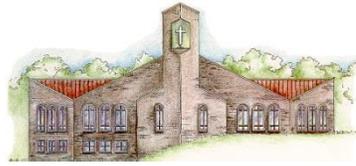
Classes meet 6:30-7:45pm in the school.

August 28	Catechist In-Service
September 4	Session 1
September 11	Session 2
September 18	Session 3
September 25	Session 4
October 2	Session 5
October 9	Fall Break – No Class
October 16	Session 6
October 23	Session 7 (Safe Environment)
October 30	Session 8
November 1	All Saint's Day – Holy Day of Obligation
November 6	Session 9
November 9	First Reconciliation 10:00am
November 13	Session 10
November 20	Session 11
November 27	Thanksgiving Break – No Class
December 4	Session 12
December 11	Session 13
December 18	Session 14
December 25	Christmas Break – No Class. Holy Day of Obligation.

January 1	New Year's Break – No Class. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation.
January 8	Catechist In-Service – No Class
January 15	Session 15
January 22	Session 16
January 29	Session 17
February 5	Session 18
February 12	Session 19
February 19	Session 20
February 26	Ash Wednesday Mass – No Class. Please take your child to Church instead. See Bulletin for times.
March 4	Session 21
March 11	Session 22
March 18	Spring Break – No Class
March 25	Session 23
April 1	Session 24
April 8	Holy Week – No Class
April 15	Session 25
April 22	Session 26
April 25	First Eucharist Retreat – 8:30-Noon (Church)
April 29	Session 27
May 2	Celebration of First Eucharist – 10:00am (Church)
May 6	Session 28 – 7:00 End of Year Mass

Please pick up your child up in church after Mass.

Vacation Bible School: June 8-12, 2020



Judy Holt
Children's Faith Formation Coordinator
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Early Childhood Faith Formation Calendar 2019-2020 Sunday Mornings

Classes meet in the lower level of the church during the 10:00am Mass.

September 15	Session 1
September 22	Session 2
September 29	Session 3
October 6	Session 4
October 13	No Class-Take your child to Mass
October 20	Session 5
October 27	Session 6 (Safe Environment)
November 1	All Saints Day – Holy Day of Obligation.
November 3	Session 6
November 10	No Class-Take your child to Mass
November 17	Session 7
November 24	Session 8
December 1	Thanksgiving Break – No Class
December 8	No Class-Take your child to Mass
December 15	Session 9
December 22	Christmas Break – No Class – Holy Day of Obligation
December 29	New Year's Break – No Class

January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation
January 5	Session 10
January 12	Session 11
January 19	Session 12
January 26	No Class-Take your child to Mass
February 2	Session 13
February 9	No Class-Take your child to Mass
February 16	Session 14
February 23	Session 15
February 26	Ash Wednesday Mass – Please take your child to Mass. See bulletin for times.
March 1	Session 16
March 8	No Class-Take your child to Mass
March 15	Session 17
March 22	Spring Break – No Class
March 29	Session 18
April 5	Session 19
April 12	Easter Break – No Class
April 19	Session 20
April 26	Session 21 – Last Session

Vacation Bible School: June 8-12, 2020.



Contact Information

Children's Faith Formation Coordinator

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Vacation Bible School

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