

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2023/2024

SAINT PATRICK'S & SAINT LUKE'S



THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- To help you learn more about God so that you can deepen your own personal relationship with Him.
- To give you the confidence to speak about your Catholic faith with others.
- To help you as you guide your children in their own personal relationship with God.
- To provide you with an opportunity to spend more time with your immediate family and also with our parish family.
- To provide you with a short time for prayer and an opportunity to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church is divided into 4 sections. They are:
 - The Creed – What we believe
 - The Sacraments – How we are sanctified
 - The Commandments – How we are to live
 - Prayer – How we relate and interact with God
- This year we will be studying the Sacraments

ADVENT & THE HOLY TRINITY

- The end of the Liturgical Year is upon us.
 - Advent will begin the weekend of December 2nd and 3rd.
 - Advent is late this year and will be short.
 - Christmas will be on a Monday. Plan to attend Mass twice on that week. Once for Sunday and once for Christmas.

ADVENT

- Much of this will be a review for you ...
- However, it's necessary because our pagan culture has eliminated the season of Advent and also the season of Christmas.

ADVENT

- Our Holy Seasons have been replaced with:
- “The Holidays” which has already begun and ends on December 25th
- After that is the return gifts season ...

ADVENT

- Advent has a twofold character: for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas ...
- in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered ...

ADVENT

- and likewise when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.
- For these two reasons, Advent is a period for devout and expectant delight (Norms 39).

ADVENT

- Before considering Advent in greater detail, we need to understand the Liturgical Year, its purpose and how it works ...

ADVENT



ADVENT

- The liturgical calendar bases its seasons and feasts on the life of Christ.
- Its purpose is to review the 33 years of the life of Jesus Christ over the course of one year.

ADVENT

- There are five seasons in the Liturgical Year. They are:
 - Advent
 - Christmas
 - Ordinary Time (part 1)
 - Lent
 - Easter
 - Ordinary Time (part 2)

ADVENT

- The two great feasts around which all the other feasts and seasons are built are:

Easter

&

Christmas

ADVENT

- Easter celebrates our Lord's Resurrection from the dead.
- By our Lord's death and Resurrection, He conquered sin, Satan and death.
- He also liberated us from these things.

ADVENT

- Christmas celebrates the Incarnation and the birth of Jesus Christ.
- Christmas is observed on December 25th and is the traditional date of the birth of Christ.
- Christian writers from the 2nd Century referred to this date decades before the Roman feast of the unconquered sun was instituted.

ADVENT

- To prepare for Christmas, we have the Season of Advent.
- Advent is a period of four weeks in which we prepare and look forward to our celebration of Christmas. Again, our preparations involve spiritual works.

ADVENT

- The Christmas Season begins after sundown on Christmas Eve.
- It continues through the Solemnity of the Epiphany – traditionally for the 12 days after Christmas – until January 6th.
- It ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – Usually the Sunday after Epiphany.

ADVENT



ADVENT

- The first Sunday of Advent reminds us that just as Christ came first when He was born in Bethlehem, so He will come again at the end of the world.
- However, at this second coming, He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.

ADVENT

- Advent then takes us back to the time before Christ's coming.
- We hear of the Israelite's longing for the coming of the Messiah.
- There is a mournful quality – how much longer must we wait?

ADVENT

- Spiritually, we can place ourselves in that position and consider what it was like before Christ came.
- We can listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah.

ADVENT

- We can prepare ourselves and make straight the way of the Lord into our hearts.
- We can cast out sinful habits and renew our desires to serve God in all things.

ADVENT

- Saint John the Baptist calls us to conversion.
- He invites us to be washed of our sins as were the people who went to the Jordan River to be baptized by him.

ADVENT

On the last Sunday of Advent, our Blessed Lady appears as well, and we are reminded that her days of confinement are almost complete and she will soon give birth to the Savior of the world.

ADVENT

- The last seven days of Advent prepare us in a more immediate way for the celebration of Christmas.
- During this time, we sing the “O Antiphons.”

ADVENT



ADVENT

- These can be found in the Hymn, O Come, O Come Immanuel. They are based on titles of Christ found in Isaiah:
 - 17 December: O Sapientia – Wisdom
 - 18 December: O Adonai – Lord
 - 19 December: O Radix Jesse – Root of Jesse
 - 20 December: O Clavis David – Key of David
 - 21 December: O Oriens – Morning Star/Dayspring
 - 22 December: O Rex Gentium King of Nations
 - 23 December: O Emmanuel – God with us

ADVENT

- Advent Colors:
- Purple symbolizing preparation.
- Rose on the Third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday) – a mixture of purple and white symbolizing Christmas is near.

ADVENT



ADVENT

- Use this Season of Advent.
 - Spend extra time in prayer and reflection.
 - Use an Advent Wreath in your home.
 - Use an Advent Calendar.
 - Guard against the pagan spirit of "the Holidays."
 - Use the Sacrament of Penance and go to Confession.

ADVENT

- Important Advent Feasts:
 - Saint Nicholas December 6th
 - Immaculate Conception December 8th
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12th

RECONCILIATION

- This Sacrament is called by several names: Penance, Confession and Reconciliation. Each of these names highlights a certain aspect of this Sacrament.
- Penance Penance emphasizes that we must do penance for our sins.
- Confession emphasizes that we must admit to our sins.
- Reconciliation emphasizes the purpose and consequence of this Sacrament, that we are reunited with God.

RECONCILIATION

- Confession is a Matter of Faith (as opposed to discipline).
- There is clear evidence in the Holy Bible that our Lord established this Sacrament (see Jn 20:19-23; Mt 16:19; Mt 18:18).
- He did so to address a reality present in all of our lives, namely sin.

RECONCILIATION

- Baptism takes away all sin, but it is also true that we sin after baptism.
- Reconciliation addresses our need to be forgiven for post-baptismal sins.
- Reconciliation is not an option for us but is in fact a necessity, that is, if we desire to grow in holiness. Without Reconciliation, we cannot hope to do so.

RECONCILIATION

- What is Sin? Sin can be defined as the breaking of God's law.
- God's laws are stated in the Ten Commandments.
- God's laws are summarized in the two Great Commandments.
- From the great Commandments, we can derive another definition of sin: Sin is an offense against love, either against the love of God or against the love of neighbor.

RECONCILIATION

- There are two kinds of sin:
- Original Sin is that sin committed by Adam and Eve.
 - This sin is forgiven in Baptism.
 - However, the effects of this sin will linger in us for the rest of our lives and will tend to hinder our spiritual progress.
- Actual Sin is when we deliberately choose to violate God's commandments.

RECONCILIATION

- Actual Sins are in turn divided into two kinds:
 - Mortal Sins are a serious offenses against love. To be a mortal sin, one must also known the act is wrong and one must also freely choose it.
 - Venial Sins are lessor offenses against love or sins where the knowledge and freedom of the sinner are impaired in some way.

RECONCILIATION

- Note the distinction between a sin and a crime. A crime is a violation of the civil law (man's laws). A sin is a violation of a God's law.
- Some acts are crimes, some sins and some both crimes and sins.

RECONCILIATION

- Examples of crimes only include: Speeding by mistake, prohibitions against prayer in schools, blocking the entrance to an abortion clinic, etc.
- Examples of sins only include: Deliberately missing Mass on a Sunday or Holyday, taking God's name in vain, gossiping about someone, being disrespectful to one's parents, etc.
- Examples of acts which are both sins and crimes include: Murder, theft, perjury, assault, etc.

RECONCILIATION

- We receive this Sacrament when we go to Confession.
- How to make a good confession -- there are four steps:
 - Examine your conscience
 - Have contrition for your sins
 - Confess your sins and receive absolution
 - Perform your penance

RECONCILIATION

- The penitent can go to confession either anonymously or face-to-face. The choice is up to the individual.
- Regular Confession is important. Doing so helps us see where we need attention in our spiritual life and also where we are making progress.
- Every six weeks or so is a good rule of thumb. If we are guilty of a serious sin, we should go immediately.

RECONCILIATION

- The seal of Confession means that the priest cannot talk about the sins you confess to anyone else for any reason.
- This seal is there because Confession has to do with you and your relationship with God. It is a conversation between you and God.

HOMework

- Watch the videos on Confession.
- Have your children learn/memorize the Act of Contrition.
- Make sure that you and your family go to Confession during Advent.

HOMework

- Ask your children if and when they are saying their prayers.
- See that your children complete any homework assignments they have.