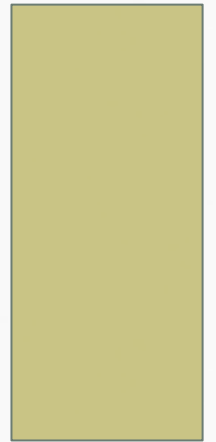


FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2023/2024

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

MASS/EUCHARIST

- Mass can be celebrated anywhere. It is sometimes celebrated outside where there are large crowds or where no church is available such as at a scouting jamboree or in a war.

MASS/EUCHARIST



MASS/EUCHARIST

- Normally Mass is celebrated in a Church, a place designed for that purpose and a place which has all of the things necessary for a reverent celebration of the Mass.

MASS/EUCHARIST



MASS/EUCHARIST

- Every Catholic Church has at least one altar (larger churches can have many altars).
- The altar is a symbol of Christ, and it has an “altar stone” containing relics of saints in it.
- The altar is also consecrated with Holy Chrism and usually has five crosses carved in it to remind us of the five precious wounds of Jesus Christ.
- It is preferred that altars be made of stone.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- Jesus gave His Apostles authority to act in His name when, at the Last Supper, He said, “Do this in memory of me.” At that moment, He also made them priests.



MASS/EUCHARIST

- For the valid celebration of Mass, there must be a priest.
- Only the priest has the power to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- Since Protestant ministers do not receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders, they cannot change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- This power of the priesthood is transferred or handed on through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.
- All validly ordained bishops are direct descendants of the Apostles. We call this “Apostolic Succession.” It is something Protestant communities do not have.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- The elements used for the Mass must be bread made from wheat flour and water.
- The wine must be grape wine (fruit of the vine). The wine may be either red or white.
- Nothing else may be added or used.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- We receive many graces from the Eucharist (CCC 1391 to 1405).
- Through it we are united to our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Holy Communion helps us resist sin and temptation, and it helps us grow in love of God and neighbor.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- Those going to Holy Communion should prepare themselves carefully; they are going to receive the Lord (1387).
- Note that there is both remote and proximate preparation.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- Remote Preparation includes:
 - During the week before coming to Mass, one should think about and look forward to receiving our Blessed Lord.
 - One should dress appropriately. Our clothing should be modest worthy of what we are doing.
 - Our actions should convey respect because we are going to receive the Lord, the most important person in our lives.
 - We must also fast for one hour before receiving. Our physical hunger reminds us that our souls hunger for the living God.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- Proximate Preparation includes:
 - Before Mass in Church, kneel down and call to mind what you are going to do and for whom you are going to pray.
 - When going to Holy Communion, just as the person before you is receiving Holy Communion, make an act of reverence and adoration. This can be a bow or genuflection. You can also receive kneeling.
 - When receiving Holy Communion, you have the option of receiving either in the hand or on the tongue. When the priest says “The Body of Christ,” respond by saying, “Amen.”
 - After receiving Holy Communion, return to your pew and make your thanksgiving. This should be a time of personal prayer between you and Jesus Christ.

MASS/EUCHARIST



MASS/EUCHARIST

- Requirements for Receiving Holy Communion:
- First, is baptism. By baptism, we gain entrance into the Church (we become members of the Church.
- Once a member, we then have the right to receive the other Sacraments.
- Pagans (those who are not baptized and are therefore not Christians), must first receive baptism before they can receive any of the other sacraments.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- Second, one must believe what Catholics believe. Reception of Holy Communion is a sign of our unity of faith.
- Non-Catholics cannot receive Holy Communion because they do not share our faith. It has nothing to do with whether that person is a good or bad person. Rather, it would be a false sign for them to receive.

MASS/EUCHARIST

- Third, one must be in a state of grace.
- If someone is aware that they have committed a grave/mortal sin, then they cannot go to Holy Communion until they have first gone to Confession

MASS/EUCHARIST

- Intercommunion is practiced in many Protestant communities. At their services, they will invite all present (regardless of their faith) to come forward and receive communion.
- Catholics do not practice intercommunion because to receive Holy Communion is a sign of our unity of faith. Because they are not united to us in faith, non-Catholics cannot receive Holy Communion in our Churches at Mass. They can however come up for a blessing.
- In addition, because we are not united in faith, when attending, even if we are invited, we cannot go to communion in non-Catholic churches. To do so would be to say that we believe what the members of that particular denomination believe.

HOMEWORK

- Holy Communion is the greatest gift our Lord has given to us. In it we are joined to Him and He to us. Truly, we abide in Him and He in us. One who understands this could never walk away from this divine friendship.

HOMework

- Parents at Home:
 - Read through the 1st Eucharistic Prayer with your children and discuss what the words and actions of the priest mean.
 - Watch the videos on Holy Communion.

HOMEWORK

- Parents at Home:
- Talk about the various things found in Catholic Churches (the altar, the tabernacle, the crucifix, holy water, statues of saints, stained glass windows, the baptismal font, the organ, etc.)
- See that your children complete their homework assignments.