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

- •Our true home is in heaven with God.
- •That means while we are here on earth, we are away from our true home.
- •You might say that here on earth we are just visiting.

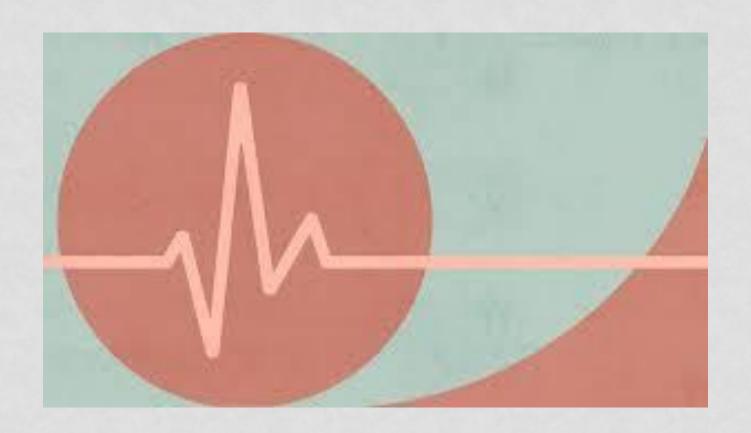
- •Jesus made it clear that He was going to prepare a place for us (that is, those who love Him above all things). He said,
 - "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe in Me as well. In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place in you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am (Jn 14:1-3)."

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Mt 6:19-21)."



- •Saint Paul also spoke about the next life in many places. For example, he said,
 - "Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 3:20)."
 - "For here we do not have a permanent city, but we are looking for the city that is to come (Heb 13:14)."

- The difficulty is how do we get to heaven.
- •Death is the way ...
- •It is through death that we rise to new life.
- •You might say that death is the bridge by which we cross over from this life to the next.



- •Another problem is this ...
- •We do not know when God will call us from this life.
- •Because of this, Jesus said to us, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour (Mt 25:13)."
- •Death often comes as a surprise.

- •That said, it's often clear when death is approaching.
 - -- Old age is a harbinger of death.
 - -- Certain illnesses are called "terminal" because they cannot be cured and lead to death.
 - -- One undergoing serious surgery is also in danger of death.

- •Crossing over from this life to the next is often filled with anxiety, and there are reasons for this.
 - --We have never done this before, and so, we know what to expect.
 - --Death is often associated with spiritual and physical suffering as the body struggles to keep on living.

- •To help us at this time, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.
- •This Sacrament is the last Sacrament in the order of reception of the Sacraments where anointing with oil takes place.
- •For that reason, it has also been called Extreme Unction which is Latin for "Last Anointing."

- •Anointing of the Sick is one of the two Sacraments of Healing (the other being Reconciliation/Penance).
- This powerful Sacrament gives spiritual healing and comfort to those who are nearing death.
- •It also can and often does bring healing to the body as well.

•Saint James refers to this Sacrament when he says,

"Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:14)."

- •The matter (the stuff used) is "the Oil of the Sick."
- •This oil is usually blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass celebrated shortly before Easter each year.
- •In time of need a priest can also bless this oil.

Oleum Infirmorum, Oleum Sanctum, Sacrum Chrisma



- •When administering the Sacrament,
- •The priest makes the sign of the cross on the sick person's forehead and on the palms of the hands of the one being anointed.
- •While doing so he says, "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."



- This Sacrament can also forgive sins if the sick person is no longer able to Confess them.
- This is so even if the person is unconscious.
- •Because it includes forgiveness of sins, the minister of this Sacrament is a bishop or priest.

- One often hears the phrase "Last Rites"
- •This refers to times when Confession, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Viaticum are received by the dying person at the same time.
- •Hence the plural name "Last Rites." Three rites of the Church take place at the same time.

- •Catholic friends and relatives should take care that their loved ones receive Anointing of the Sick if they are sick and in danger of death.
- •Always ask if the priest has been called. Note this Sacrament can be received more than once, even in the same illness.

- •When should Anointing of the Sick be received?
- •It should be received when someone is sick and in danger of death -- not at the point of death.
- •Note that the person cannot just be in danger of death or just sick. Both conditions must be present at the same time.

HOMEWORK

- Parents at home:
- Talk with your children about heaven our true home and how we must cross over from this life to get there, and that involves dying.
- Tell your children about a family member or friend who died and of how a priest came to pray with them before they died.

HOMEWORK

Parents at Home:

•Read James 5:14 with your children.

•Discuss when and how you would call a priest if someone was seriously ill and in danger of death.

HOMEWORK

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