FAMILY FAITH FORMATION - 2024/2025

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.

- •Recall the Commandments are about love.
- Recall too that love between persons can be defined as "willing the good of the other."

And ...

•Finally, recall that love for God can be defined as "willing what God wills."

- The commandments are divided into two groups:
 - The first three commandments have to do with our relationship with God.
 - The last seven have to do with our relationships with our fellow man.

•The Eighth Commandment is "You Shall Not not bear false witness against your neighbor."

- •This Commandment has to do with the truth, that is, what really is.
- •This Commandment forbids deliberately misrepresenting the truth.

- •We are called to imitate God, and since God is true in all things, we must be true in all things as well.
- •Jesus is full of grace and truth (Jn 1:14), and we are called imitate Him in these things as well.

- •When interacting with others, we have the moral obligation to communicate to them the truth.
- •Lies in either word or deed, violate this commandment.

- •If we were unable to rely on the truthfulness of others, society would break down.
- •We would have to spend most of our time verifying what others have told us is really true.

- We are bound to seek the truth in all things.
- •This is especially so with regard to religious truths.
- •We must seek to know God as best we can so that we can do His will as perfectly as we can and love Him as much as we can.

- We have a duty to make known to others the saving teachings of Jesus by what we say and do.
- To bear witness to the truth in religious matters means to state what is true without fear or shame.
- •We must keep a clear conscience before both God and man.

- Martyrdom is the supreme witness to the truth.
- •A martyr endures death rather than deny his or her faith in Jesus Christ.
- •The Church preserves the memories of the martyrs as reminders to us of their heroism and our call to imitate them if called to do so.

•Sins against the Eighth Commandment include the following:

- Lying under oath which is false witness in a public matter.
- •This is called <u>perjury</u> and is very serious because it can lead to the conviction of innocent people or the freedom of the guilty.

- Disrespect for the reputation of others can take several forms:
 - Rash judgement which means drawing conclusions about someone without sufficient evidence.
 - <u>Detraction</u> which is revealing the faults of others without a good reason
 - <u>Calumny</u> which is lying about others to harm their reputation.

- •Everyone has a right to their good name, and to harm or destroy the good name of another offends against justice.
- •An offense committed against the truth with regard to another's reputation requires reparation.

•Adulation or flattery that encourages someone to do wrong or to continue in bad behavior is a misuse of our gift of speech and is sinful.

- Lying with the intention to deceive is the most direct offense against the truth.
- •The seriousness is measured by how much it distorts the truth.
- •Lying harms the other because it affects his ability to know and in turn may cause him to make wrong judgments and decisions about what is good for him and those he is responsible for.

- •The right to the truth is not absolute.
- •Those in authority do not have the obligation to disclose the reasons for their decisions. Children do not have the right to know why parents have made certain decisions. Subordinates do not have the right to know why certain decisions are made.

- •Others do not have the right to know private matters.
- •In these cases, one can decline to answer; one can say that is none of your business, or change the subject, but they cannot lie to avoid answering.

- •We cannot lie to spare another's feelings (sometimes called "white lies"), but we can give evasive answers which have more than one interpretation.
- •This can also be done when one is being threatened by another who has no right to the truth. For example a thief who demands to know where you savings are hidden.

HOMEWORK

• Parents at Home:

- Watch the video on the Eighth Commandment.
- Have your children memorize the Eighth Commandment.
- Have a discussion about the importance of bearing witness to the truth and what happens when we do not and lie instead.

HOMEWORK

 Ask your children if and when they are saying their prayers.

•See that your children complete any homework assignments they have.