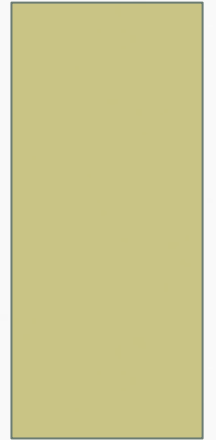


FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2025/2026

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 Prayer

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- What is a Saint?

The primary definition is this:

A Saint is a person who is in heaven with God. Saints can be angelic or human.

A secondary definition is this:

Those people who are close to God.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- There are countless saints in heaven.
- We do not know who they all are at this time.
- We will meet them all when Christ comes again at the Resurrection on the last day.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- We do know some of the saints by name.
- These saints have been canonized, that is, officially declared saints by the Church.
- In modern times this is a lengthy and involved process.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Saints all share one characteristic and that is holiness.
- Holiness is the person's measure of union with God.
- Holy people are united and one in will with God. They are one with Him.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- The greatest of all the saints is the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- Saint Joseph, the father of Jesus and patron of the universal Church.
- Other saints are the Apostles, especially Saints Peter and Paul.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS



DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- The Church has several classes of Saints. These include:
 - Apostles
 - Martyrs
 - Pastors/Confessors (bishops and priests)
 - Virgins and religious
 - Holy men and women

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- The Communion of Saints is an important doctrine of the Church
- It is mentioned in the Apostles' Creed.
- This teaching refers to the three parts or groups of the Church, all united by a common faith and love for God.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- The three groups are:
 - Those in heaven – The Church Triumphant
 - Those in purgatory – The Church Suffering
 - Those on earth – the Church militant

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS



DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- The Church Triumphant:
 - These are the members of the Church, the People of God and the Body of Christ, who are now in heaven with God and enjoy eternal life with Him.
 - They see God “face to face.”

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- The Church suffering:
 - These are the members of the Church in purgatory.
 - They are often called the “Poor Souls” because they are being purified of the last residue of their sins (Rev 21:27).

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Purgatory is not mentioned by name in the Bible, but the practice of praying for the dead predates the coming of Jesus Christ (see 2Mac 12:39-46).
- Disputes about the existence of Purgatory only date from the Reformation.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- A Catholic explanation ...
 - There are two kinds of punishment for sin:
 - Eternal where someone loves their sin more than God and chooses hell over heaven.
 - Temporal which refers to the debt which must be paid back for sins committed.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Purgatory has to do with the Temporal Punishment due to sin.
- If our debt is not paid in this life, then in God's justice, it must be paid in the next life. This will happen in Purgatory.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- In Purgatory, one "grieves" for his sins.
- Consider Saint Peter who had denied Jesus three times.
- He reaffirmed his love for Jesus three times ...

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS



DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- The Church Militant:
- Includes all of us here on earth who are working out our salvation ...
- We who are running the race ...

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Because we are united through Christ, we can support and aid each other.
 - Saints in heaven need nothing, but they can intercede for the saints on earth and in purgatory.
 - Saints in purgatory can intercede for those on earth.
 - Saints on earth can intercede for those in purgatory. This is a great act of mercy.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- The practice of having images of the Saints in our Churches and homes.
 - Holy art reminds us of the saints in heaven.
 - We are surrounded by them and this is especially true during the celebration of Mass. Their images remind us of this cloud of witnesses (Heb 12:1) that surrounds us.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Their images remind us of their holiness and inspire us to imitate their lives.
- We are also reminded that the saints are our friends and that we should call upon them in time of need.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Patron Saints ...
 - Saints in heaven do not stop being human once they go to heaven. They do not become angels.
 - They also know who they are and what happened to them while they lived here on earth.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Those on earth who share certain things with the saints in heaven often pray to that particular saint.
- The reason is because that saint can understand us better.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Saint Joseph is prayed to by carpenters.
- Saint Gianna by mothers experiencing difficult pregnancies.
- Saint Luke by artists.
- Saint John Vianney by parish priests.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- Saints can be patrons of nations ...
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of Mexico
 - Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland.
 - Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS



DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS

- It's a good and holy tradition to name your child after a saint.
- That saint then becomes your child's patron saint and takes a special interest in the salvation of your child.
- In England, your first name is referred to as your "Christian name."

HOMework

- Parents at Home:
- Watch the videos on Saints
- Discuss with your children the practice of praying to the saints in heaven and of praying to and for the saints in Purgatory.

HOMEWORK

- Parents at Home:
 - Ask your children to pick a favorite saint and learn about his or her life.
 - See that your children complete their homework assignments.
 - Take your children to Stations of the Cross.
 - Ask your children how they are doing on their Lenten resolutions.

FAMILY PRAYER

