



HOLY FAMILY AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Area Office: 512 Black Oak Ave, Montevideo MN 56265 • 320-269-5954 • www.holyfamilyarea.org

St. Andrew
450 11th Ave
Granite Falls MN 56241

St. James
1012 Locust St
Dawson MN 56232

St. Joseph
512 Black Oak Ave
Montevideo MN 56265

August 11, 2025

Dear Faith Formation Families,

As the new school year approaches, we are also preparing for the start of the Faith Formation year. We have some additional changes this year— staff with new assignments and new ways to help you and your child encounter Jesus' love through the beauty of the Catholic Church!

First, My name is Alisha Schindler, and I'm honored to step into the role of Area Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry for the Holy Family Area! I live just outside of Dawson with my husband, Clint, and our 4 kids- ages 3-13. Life is never dull-we share our space with a flock of chickens, a Highland cow, some Babydoll sheep, two ducks, and our three dogs. When I'm not chasing my kids or animals, you will find me with my camera in hand pursuing my passion for capturing the stories of families/individuals through photography. I have owned and operated my business for 12 years! My passion for storytelling inspires me in this new role- because our faith is the greatest story we'll ever live to tell. I'm so excited to help create opportunities for children, teens, and families to experience God's love, grow closer to Him, and live out their faith in real and lasting ways. I can't wait to walk this journey with all of you as we build a strong faith community together!

MEETINGS: Although the S-Term and J-Term meetings were well received in the past two years, it became a lot of meetings! Therefore, we will be condensing parent meetings down to the following:

- Two (2) Parent and Student Education Nights for Year 1/Year 2 Confirmation Students
- One (1) joint First Reconciliation and First Communion Parent Meeting/Student Retreat for those receiving those sacraments (one will be held in English and one will be held in Spanish)
- One (1) joint Family/Student Stations of the Cross and Family Rosary at each parish
- All Parents will be invited/asked to join larger parish events, i.e. Parish Missions, Speakers in

nearby parishes, Advent and Lent Reconciliation, etc.

This does not mean that Parent Education events are not important, and it is possible they may return. Our youngest students will also be bringing home weekly notes on what they

learned and how you, as Parents, can learn alongside/with/from your children. Watch for these resources each week!

DAY/TIME CHANGES: We are making some changes to our timeframes at a few locations. Please read carefully through the attached schedule for Grade levels and Day/Time changes at our parishes. ***Please note the enclosed calendar for your parish and keep this in a safe place for the entire year!**

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) for children, ages 3-6

CGS allows children to explore, discover, and take to heart the basic teachings of our faith; ponder Scripture; understand what is truly happening in the Mass; and enter into a personal relationship with God. This is all done through hands-on learning (no textbooks). It is a Montessori-style approach to religious education. Weekly sessions closely follow the faith formation and school calendars. This program is inherently liturgical, closely following the church calendar. You may now register your children for CGS through our regular Faith Formation process— ONLINE. Children can enroll each year from ages 3-6. (Because of limited space, we cannot accept paper registration forms.)

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD(REN)-- Faith Formation and CGS:

We will be utilizing an **ONLINE Registration through Google Forms**, which will help us keep all of your data up to date. Please use the following links to register your child at the parish where they will attend their classes (fill out one form PER CHILD). Please complete ALL of the areas on the form. Your information is saved confidentially. You can also find these registration forms at our website online at www.holyfamilyarea.org

- Link for St Andrew: <https://tinyurl.com/SAReg25-26>
- Link for St James: <https://tinyurl.com/SJAREg25-26>
- Link for St Joseph in English: <https://tinyurl.com/SJOREg25-26>
- Link for ANY PARISH in Spanish: <https://tinyurl.com/HFASpanReg25-26>

(If you are in need of a paper form, there is one form included. Additional forms can be located in the back of each church. Students for CGS must register online only.)

FEES: Due to the rising costs of curriculum and shipping charges, and lack of previous grant-funding, all parishes will be collecting fees to help off-set the cost of the program expenses. Do know that we have checked Diocesan-wide, and we charge the LEAST amount of fees— and we want to keep it that way! **Please help us by registering your child(ren) online by September 1, 2025 for the discounted early-bird rate!** We have also eliminated the Sacramental Fees. Financial assistance is available.

CATECHISTS: We are in need of catechists at all parishes!

If we cannot ascertain enough Catechists for each grade level, home catechesis will be assigned. (This will also look different than previous home catechesis).

If you are interested in serving as a Catechist, you will be guaranteed the following:

- a) Full-time Catechists get **FREE Tuition** for your whole family!
- b) Learn a **TON** about your Catholic faith!
- c) Make a difference in the lives of our youth!
- d) Learn through deeper prayer experiences and have regular access to Adoration and the Sacraments

Please prayerfully consider how you could help impact the future of our parishes! Contact us to find out more about serving your parish in this worthwhile ministry.

COMMUNICATION: Parents will be kept informed of important dates, primarily through **Email** and on the **GroupMe App**. Parish codes are included in this mailer. You will also receive notices through flyers, church bulletin and the website: www.holyfamilyarea.org. Please remember to check all of these areas for information on cancellations, meetings, etc.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Friends in Christ,

Alisha Schindler

Area Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Cell: 320-368-8625

Email through Sept 30: stjamesffc@holyfamilyarea.org

Email as of October 1: areaffoffice@holyfamilyarea.org

Kristy Rasmusson

St Andrew Faith Formation Coordinator

Cell: 320-226-1188

E: standrewffc@holyfamilyarea.org