

Mt. Hope Catholic Community

Saint Francis of Assisi / Saint Dominic

Swansea, Massachusetts

September 9, 2025

Dear Families:

Welcome to a new year of Faith Formation. We are so happy that you will be joining us for a faith filled – Christ filled year. As we begin this new season of Religious Education, we would like to share with you some of the new changes that have been made to the program. Please be aware that a great deal of thought and prayer went into the planning and organization of this year's program. While keeping Christ at the forefront of this planning, your child's safety and family time was a major part of our decisions. The important thing to remember, the Love of God will get us through this year as we journey closer to Him.

- The 2025 -2026 Religious education program for Grades 1-7 will run from October 4th through May 16, 2026.
- Each student will receive a grade specific packet filled with all the materials needed to help them learn about God, the church, Bible Stories, and the Mass. All this will help to bring the children closer to God and stronger in their faith.
- Regular attendance at Mass is very important as it allows families to pray and worship together. We will be having a monthly family mass alternating between Saint Francis and Saint Dominics. While students are not required to sign in at Mass, their participation and attendance will make their spiritual life grow in grace and the Love of Christ.
- Please be aware that class days and times have been adjusted to better satisfy the needs of our families while also helping to keep our children safer. Grades 1 and 2 will meet now on Saturday mornings at Saint Dominics parish hall from 9:30am to 11:00am. Grades 3-7 will meet on Tuesday afternoons at Saint Francis parish hall from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. Please keep these changes in your prayers as we try something a little different. Also, all classes will be held every other week for the entire year. Attached you will find the schedule for all classes. During the months with school vacations, schedules may be a little different, but there will only be two classes held per month, 1.5 hours per class.
- All students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis. They are allowed 3 absences since classes are held every other week. Remember, each student's absence will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any student who misses a class should ask the

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teacher for any missed assignments and return the assignment at the next class scheduled time.

- All students should act in a polite and courteous manner. Rudeness, disrespect, and improper language will not be tolerated. Bullying of any sort will be cause for dismissal from the program.
- Cell phones and ear buds will not be allowed during class time. If a child needs to make an emergency call, they will be allowed to do so with the teacher.
- Time spent with your children is limited. We will do our best to make sure they are given all the guidance and instructions to help them along in their faith journey. But, as parents and/or guardians, you are your child's first and best teacher. That is why it is so important to spend time with your children going over their prayers and bringing them to mass. We can only do so much during class time. Your love and guidance will be what they remember the most. Children should know their prayers as they move along through the faith formation cycle. Your help with this would be greatly appreciated.
- Class cancellation due to inclement weather or emergency. When Swansea Public Schools cancel due to a weather-related event or have an early dismissal due to weather, faith formation classes are also cancelled for that day. Class cancellations on the weekend will always be on WSAR.com and announced on WSAR radio 1480 AM. You can also check by calling the Faith Formation Office at 508-674-0024 and a message should be on the line.
- Please be sure to inform the Director of any medical conditions or child allergies your child might have so we can be aware of it.
- Your child safety is important, so please let us know who will be picking up your child, if there are any changes, please let the Director know at your earliest convenience. A picture ID should also be provided when picking up your child

We are so excited to begin a new year with your children, and we are sincerely looking forward to helping your children grow in their faith and love of Christ. Should you have any questions and or would like to meet with me, please call 508-674-0024 or on my email at fame65@aol.com

Yours in Christ,

Bob Horta, Pastoral Associate

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