

*Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being. Do it for the Lord rather than for men, since you know full well that you will receive an inheritance from him as your reward. -Colossians 3:23-24*

#### Faith Formation at St. Denis and St. Patrick | 2025-2026 School Year

For the last year, St. Denis and St. Patrick parishes have been providing greater opportunities in faith formation, for students and parents. One Wednesday evening per month we bring the two parishes' programs together in a workshop setting. On other Wednesday evenings, each parish hosts their own separate faith formation focus. This keeps in mind that the Church is called to cooperate with parents through suitable pastoral initiatives, assisting them in the fulfillment of their educational mission to become the first catechists of their own children.

The cornerstone of this combined faith formation will be the once-a-month Family Workshop, for all parents and students, from both parishes 5:30-7 PM. This involves all ages, high school, middle school, elementary, and pre-school, as well as parents, all in separate classrooms. One half of the year this is hosted at St. Patrick, the other half at St. Denis. Each of these workshops would be for all families of both parishes.

In addition, at St. Denis, on two Wednesdays per month, there is instruction for the elementary grades in the afternoons, and for middle school and high school grades on the same days in the evenings. Instruction and guidance will be provided by church catechists, 3:30-4:30 PM for the elementary students, and 6-7:30 PM for the middle school and high school students.

At St. Patrick, in addition to the monthly Wednesday Family Workshop, there will be one more scheduled Wednesday a month 5:30-6:30 PM. This will include structured time for parents to work with and teach their own students, and availability of mentor catechists. Parents teach their own children the program and theme that is introduced at the monthly family workshop and then complete that month's age-appropriate lessons. Mentor catechists are available to assist with strategies and explanation of content as needed. Guidance will be available for students and their parents as needed.

Some months will only have three Wednesdays available, resulting in programs being offered in both parishes on the same night. We are looking to present a choice to parents, and not limit anyone's participation. The expectation is that all families will attend the monthly Family Workshop, and in addition, choose whichever one of the other two options is most suitable for them to attend for the year.

This approach establishes and encourages closer collaboration between parents and the Church for forming faith-filled families. Passing on the faith is not solely the responsibility of either the church or of parents. Believing parents, with their daily example of life, have the most effective capacity to transmit the beauty of the Christian faith to their children. The church must partner with parents to effectively equip them for this.

Part of this partnership is for parents to encourage and be committed to Sunday Mass, daily prayer, regular confession, and supporting the needs of the church. This doesn't demand perfection of families, but looks for a good faith effort and growth, to help parents to be effective witnesses in their family. Parents bear witness to their faith by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, faithfulness, and service are all put into practice. This is what it means to be a faithful disciple in a family.

St. Denis and St. Patrick parishes do not charge our families for participating in faith formation. As a part of supporting the needs of the church, we encourage each family to generously contribute financially to their parish, as you are able. In addition, we encourage volunteering and serving together in the church as a family. The registration process will include selecting service opportunities available throughout the coming year.

Any offering of faith formation must have family involvement to be strong, and children of all ages benefit from more time in Christian community. Having the parishes collaborate together allows us to expand what we can offer, continuing with the good from what we have been doing, and enhancing it by expanding the opportunities to grow in faith and understanding, as a community of faith-filled families.

To register for formation at St. Denis and St. Patrick next year, please visit a parish website:  
[StDenis-Shiocton.org](http://StDenis-Shiocton.org) | [StPatrick-Stephensville.org](http://StPatrick-Stephensville.org)

*"I am the Queen of Heaven. Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing. I will help you."*

-Message from Our Blessed Mother Mary to Adele in the apparition of Our Lady of Champion

### **Monthly Workshop Dates**

#### **For All Families**

5:30-7 PM

September 3, 2025

October 1

November 5

December 3

January 7, 2026

February 4

March 4

April 8

May 6

**St. Denis Wednesday Class Dates**

Ele: 3:30-4:30 | Mid & High: 6-7:30

September 10 & 17, 2025

October 8 & 29

November 12 & 19

December 3 & 17

January 14 & 28, 2026

February 11 & 25

March 11 & 25

April 15 & 29

Or

**St. Patrick Catechist Mentor Nights**

5:30-6:30 PM

September 24, 2025

October 22

November 19

December 17

January 21, 2026

February 25

March 18

April 22