

FAMILY LIFE & SPIRITUALITY

Supporting families in life and faith



The Family Life and Spirituality (FL&S) ministry is focused on attracting and retaining families as active members of the Saint Brigid Parish and local Catholic communities. FL&S began after Pope Francis issued *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love") in 2016. Bishop McElroy responded to this letter by organizing a Diocesan conference; then Fr. Steve initiated our parish ministry in 2017.

FL&S especially focuses on supporting young families and providing opportunities for accompaniment during the transitions between the sacraments. For example, they support the Witness to Love process by connecting married couples with engaged couples as they prepare for marriage and walk with parents as they prepare for the Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation of their children. They welcome all families and even have specific community building support for divorced or military families and families with young children. They understand that every person is part of a family, and St. B's has many wonderful ministries, opportunities to serve, and ways to practice our faith; so FL&S focuses on ensuring these opportunities are especially welcoming for the newly married and those with young children. FL&S wants to encourage faith as a top priority for families by making it simple and fun for everyone to encounter, love, and serve Jesus, one another, and the world.

FL&S hosts the renewal of marriage vows around Valentine's day (coming up on February 9), organizes a gathering space for St. B's members at the Kate Sessions Park Summer Concerts, and threw a Luau for the engaged couples and their Witness to Love mentor couples. They also host faith formation parents in the Ministry Center on Tuesday nights while their kids are in class and coordinate the Sunday morning coffee cart on the second Sunday of each month.

FL&S is a growing ministry, welcoming ideas, leadership, and community building from those who will help make Saint Brigid Parish the place we all love.

Get in touch with their co-chairs Joe and Frannie LaRussa (jarussa@convenenow.com) or Brian and Katy Siddons (katysiddons@gmail.com) for any input, questions, or desire to get involved.