

CHURCH OF THE HOLY NAME FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

2018-2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is time to sign up for **Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation** for your child/ren for **2018-2019!** **Please:**

- Review this information and sign up soon!
- Have your child/ren participate to help build community and socialize as well as build their faith and hope in Christ!
- Determine if this is a year for Reconciliation/Eucharist Preparation (Gr. 2 ↑) or Confirmation (Gr. 9-12) and use the enclosed form to sign up!
- Consider being a catechist or other volunteering.
- Turn all forms in by the **SEPTMEBER 10th Deadline!** (This helps me have materials ready and recruit enough catechists!)

If you would like to know more about our programs or see samples of materials, please contact me. If you have questions or concerns, please let me know. I look forward to working with you on your family's faith formation journey!

Erin O'Leary, Director of Faith Formation,
erino@churchoftheholynome.org

We need your **email!** My main way of communicating with families is email. Please be sure we have yours!

FORMS!? You only need to fill out one form per family. Please be sure to read all sections carefully and fill out **BOTH SIDES** of the form. Please be sure to circle the correct program initials in the "**Learner Information**" section. Finally, be sure to let me know of any special needs and requests! **NOTE:** any special requests must be sent in writing prior to the first class session. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION: Will only be held this year if enough candidates (5 minimum) register.

Family Faith Formation is one part of the total Formation programming at Holy Name. Formation is important for all ages. Family formation includes classes for Preschool through 8th graders, Sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist and our Confirmation program for 9th-12th graders.

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PLEASE HELP US SUCCEED!

We need Catechists (faith teachers) and helpers for our programs... and sometimes other volunteers to assist at a particular session or gathering. We also need substitutes! If you are able to help or just want to know more, please contact Erin O'Leary or **fill out the volunteer form.** We provide training, help, and prayers so that you will have a positive experience!

Basic Information

Family Formation Classes

3-4 times monthly

End of September – End of April

Preschool – 8th Grade

(PR and FF) Sundays:

9:45-10:50 a.m.

-with some additional occasional gathering times/opportunities

***Required Parent/Youth*
Orientation Session-
Sept. 16, 9:45 a.m.**

Sacramental Programs

Preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist

(RE) Periodic Wednesdays: 6:00-7:00 p.m. with parents and children attending and participating together*

**There will be one session that is for parents only.*

Confirmation Preparation

(CN) Sundays –12:00 p.m.

Additional meetings and retreat as scheduled, including a joint **parent/candidate orientation session. Info will be sent if enough candidates register!**

~ Over Please ~

Frequently Asked Questions.

Can my children participate in preparation for First Reconciliation and Eucharist if they are not in the regular faith formation classes?

- No- unless there is a situation such as a special learning need. We encourage and expect all to participate in regular faith formation to help form community relationships and to grow deeper in relationship with Christ.

Do we have to be members of the parish to participate?

- In general, we are happy to have you participate without being a registered member of the parish except for the reception of Sacraments for which parish registration and on-going formation are required.
- Families with children receiving a Sacrament must be registered in the parish according to Catholic Church Law or provide a letter of permission from the pastor at your current Catholic parish in order to receive the sacraments with us. We will be happy to work with you on this process.

What if I have a child in 3rd or 4th grade (or older) who has not received First Eucharist?

- Please contact Erin O’Leary for more information and to let her know your need. Be sure to mark it on the Registration Form as well. (Circle the **RE** designation on the form.)
- We encourage these young people to participate in regular faith formation with those of their own grade level.

What if I have an older child (over age 7) who is not Baptized/Baptized in another faith?

- We welcome anyone to participate in our faith formation programs. There are no special baptism requirements to participate in regular formation classes.
- If you would like your unbaptized child/ren (or those baptized in another denomination) to receive Catholic sacraments, there is a process called the *Rite of Christian Initiation* which means that they will have some additional learning and sharing sessions to prepare for sacraments.
- Contact Erin O’Leary with questions or to “sign up” as it is a separate process from our regular programs.

What is the age requirement for participating in Preschool Faith Formation?

- Children in our preschool program will be three to four year olds or five year olds who do not yet attend Kindergarten.
- Your child should be toilet trained and used to preschool/daycare. If you have a three or four year old who does not attend daycare or preschool and feel he/she is ready, please contact Erin O’Leary to discuss the situation. These sessions share Bible stories, Catholic prayers and learning along with play time, songs and fun. It is most helpful if your child is used to a group learning setting and being away from parents.

What happens for Confirmation?

- Confirmation preparation is held during years in which we have enough candidates register. Candidates can participate any time from grades 9-12.
- Confirmation is a period of *invitation* and *formation* in our faith and a process of *discernment* where each young person looks at the impact that completing their initiation will have on their life. They learn in detail about Sacraments, prayer and life of the Church and practice works of the Church such as service and justice.
- Candidates make a choice to confirm what was begun at their Baptism as they feel the call of Jesus to live life in Him within the Catholic Church. They also spend time with their sponsor (either in person or via phone/skype) discerning their personal faith beliefs and views.
- Candidates and parents (or sponsor if available) will have a detailed orientation session.

What materials does Holy Name use for Formation?

- In K-5 we use Our Sunday Visitor materials from the *Alive in Christ* series which includes ties to Social Justice and service.
- Middle schoolers have a three-year rotation: Faith Fusion Catholic Overview, Great People of the Bible, and Exploring Faith Through Art, Experience and Prayer. This year is Faith Fusion.
- Preschoolers use the Allelu program also from OSV which follows scripture and the church year. It uses songs, story-telling and activities. Parents get a weekly flyer too.

