

GRADES K-6 FAITH FORMATION

Elementary school age children have a natural curiosity about faith, church and prayer. Our program is designed to assist you, the parents/guardians, in building upon this natural curiosity, and to fulfill your obligation as their primary catechist. Your children will be introduced to the basic stories of our faith.

Our program encourages family discussion and involvement, and leads to a better understanding of the Liturgical year, the Bible, and what it means to be community. The approach incorporates a variety of age-appropriate techniques including prayer, music, discussion, games and stories. Sharing and communicating are actively encouraged.

CURRICULUM MATERIALS

The Pflaum Gospel Weeklies will be used as the primary teaching tool in the program. Children will also be given a Handbook which reinforces and reviews the basic Church teachings that should be mastered at each grade level. Every lesson goes home to enable parental involvement as well, and to foster attendance at Sunday Mass - for the whole family.

Lectionary based activities may also be used to supplement the curriculum. These puzzle and activity sheets make Scripture come alive in a fun way.

Each class will also undertake a Christian Service project at some point during the year. We encourage parents (or guardians) to take an active interest in these projects and to encourage your child's involvement.

Our program also includes opportunities for parents to join with their children for particular faith formation sessions or family events. It is our hope that your participation will deepen your understanding and appreciation of our shared faith, and in so doing, will enhance your ability to meet your duties as the primary catechist of your children. More information will be provided closer to the scheduled events.

The manner in which you practice your faith as a family is the single most important factor in the development of your child's faith.

POLICIES

All children who register in our program are expected to attend the sessions regularly, to worship weekly, and to behave in a manner that is respectful of themselves, their peers and their catechist. When difficulties arise in any of these areas, they are attended to on an individual basis in consultation with Mrs. Stockwell, the parents/guardians, the catechist and Father Slezak.

A WORD ABOUT WORSHIP

There is simply no substitute for regular (weekly) active participation in the Mass. The documents of the Second Vatican Council refer to our celebration of Eucharist as "the source and summit" of all that we do. The Mass calls us to be disciples of Jesus Christ, nourishes us for that task and then sends us forth to practice our faith in the coming weeks. We are never too young or too old to worship.

Personal and group prayer are also a regular part of the Sunday morning faith formation experience. Each class includes prayer, and at various seasons during the year, the children are gathered to pray as a large group. Respectful behavior is expected of all of the children during these times of prayer.

FAMILY MASSES

Children in the Faith Formation Program attend Mass once a month as an extension of class. Children may either sit with their catechist and other class members, or with their families. In any case, pews are reserved at the front of the Church for the children, their families and the catechists. Children may be given the opportunity to proclaim the readings, read the Prayer of the Faithful (petitions), and to present the gifts of bread and wine during the Offertory.

CALENDAR 2018-2019

September 16	Opening Day—Mass with Bishop Scharfenberger
September 23	Class
September 30	Class
October 7	NO CLASS
October 14	Class
October 21	Class
October 28	Class — Family Mass*
November 4	Class
November 11	Class
November 18	Class — Family Mass*
November 25	NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING
December 2	Class — Family Mass*
December 9	Class
December 16	Class
December 23	NO CLASS—CHRISTMAS BREAK
December 30	NO CLASS—CHRISTMAS BREAK
January 6	Class — Family Mass* & Pageant
January 13	Class
January 20	Class
January 27	Class
February 3	Class
February 10	Class — Family Mass*
February 17	NO CLASS—WINTER RECESS
February 24	NO CLASS—WINTER RECESS
March 3	Class
March 10	Class
March 17	Class
March 24	Class — Family Mass*
March 31	Class
April 7	Class
April 14	Class — Family Mass*

****Children will be attending 10:30 a.m. Mass with their Catechist and Class or with their families, and sit up front in the Church.***

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATION

Sunday morning Faith Formation sessions are held at Holy Trinity Parish Center from **9:00 to 10:15 a.m.**

It is essential that all the children are in the classrooms by **9:00 a.m.** and that they are picked up promptly at **10:15 a.m.** from the lobby in the Parish Center.

Children are not left unattended while waiting to be picked up. At 10:25 a.m. all children who have **NOT** been picked up are taken to the 10:30 a.m. Mass with Mrs. Stockwell.

CHILDREN'S SAFETY

The safety of our children is a responsibility we take seriously. Therefore, the interior school doors will be locked at 9:15 a.m. If you need to get into the building, please ring the doorbell in the lobby of the Parish Center and our gatekeeper will assist you.

We need to be able to reach you in case of an emergency. Please notify us immediately if you have a change of address or telephone number.

If someone other than the parents (or guardians) or emergency contact as listed on the registration form will pick up child(ren) from class on any given Sunday, notification to that effect must be provided. Handwritten note or email may be sent to Mrs. Margaret Stockwell prior to the start of class, and should include the name, and phone number of the adult who will pick up the child(ren), his or her phone number, and parental consent of this arrangement.

REGISTRATION MATERIALS

Registration forms may be obtained by calling Mrs. Stockwell at 237-2373, or go to our Parish website www.holytrinitycohoes.org to download the forms.

Fees for students in all grade levels—K through 10—are: \$50 for one child; \$70 for two children and \$100 for three or more children in a family.

****The fee for Children entering the First Reconciliation/First Eucharist Program is \$60 per child.**

*No child is ever denied entrance into the program because of an inability to pay the fees.
Please speak to Mrs. Stockwell.*

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

GRADES K-6

2018-2019

Faith Formation Office

122 Vliet Boulevard

Cohoes, New York 12047

www.holytrinitycohoes.org

Reverend Brian K. Slezak

Pastor

htppastor@gmail.com

Mrs. Margaret Stockwell

Faith Formation Coordinator

htpfaithformation@gmail.com