

May 2023

Dear St. Patrick Faith Formation Families,

We hope you are enjoying a restful start to what will hopefully be a rejuvenating summer! We are excited to share information about a new year of faith formation activities in 2023 – 24!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the family and parents are the **PRIMARY** educators of the faith for their children. It is through *your* word and example that your children first come to know God and begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When children are baptized, the Church community promises to help parents foster their faith. Our Faith Formation program is designed to assist and support you in this important duty.

St. Patrick Catholic Community Faith Formation Program 2023/2024 will have two options for grades 1 – 7. Option 1: Sunday mornings from 9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. Option 2: Wednesday evenings from 5:15 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Classes will be held at St. Patrick School.

Eighth grade religious education is combined with Confirmation Preparation and will be offered on the Sunday morning schedule from 9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. Class will be held in the library in Building #4.

Faith Formation classes will meet approximately three times a month from August 2023 – May 2024.

We ask you to encourage regular attendance and participation in Faith Formation classes, activities, and Sunday Mass. *Please see the Faith Formation Calendar and Sacramental preparation dates enclosed.*

The goals for our program are:

- ❖ To develop an understanding of the Catholic faith and practices in the lives of our families.
- ❖ To foster a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer.
- ❖ To prepare students to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

The textbook we will be using is Faith and Life: A Catechetical Series by Ignatius Press. Textbooks and supplies are covered by the Faith Formation fees. **Please Note:** Tuition is \$130.00 per student up to \$255 per family. For children receiving the Sacrament of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation, there will be an additional fee of \$25, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion - \$35, and Confirmation - \$45 in order to cover expenses. **Tuition and fees are due at the time of registration and non refundable.**

We will begin taking registrations on **May 16, 2023** in the Faith Formation Office (Parish Office) Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. and Friday 8:30 - 12:00 PM. New registrations can also be found at our website at <https://www.stpatsparish.org/religious-education>. **There will be a late fee of \$10 after ....**

We look forward to seeing you and working with you as we join in guiding our children to know, love, and serve Our Lord. May God bless you and your family this coming year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Jon Plavcan  
Pastor

## Calendar 2023/2024

### WELCOME MASS

Grades 1 - 8

August 16, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.

Our Catholic faith tells us that the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life,” meaning that all we do flows from and returns to our celebration of the Mass and the special encounter we share with Jesus in Holy Communion. With this in mind it seems fitting that we begin our year of faith formation at “the source,” the celebration of the Mass. This celebration contains all the major components that our students will be learning about in this coming year: Scriptures, Sacraments, Prayer, and Community. It will be a beautiful opportunity for all of us to ask Our Lord to pour out His graces upon this upcoming year of learning and growing. This Mass will be, what some call, a “teaching Mass” meaning that, as we progress through the Mass, Fr. Jon will pause to explain the different parts of the Mass that you may have not learned about before. In light of the Church’s understanding of the family as the “domestic church” and the importance of family support along the journey of faith, we ask that our students be accompanied by their families for this celebration.

### SUNDAY MORNING CLASS SCHEDULE

Grades 1 - 8

9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024
20, 27	10, 17, 24	8, 22	5, 12, 19	3, 10, 17	14, 21	4, 11, 25	3, 10, 17	7, 14, 21	5

### WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASS SCHEDULE

Grades 1 - 7

5:15 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024
23, 30	13, 20, 27	11, 18	1, 8, 15	6, 13, 20	17, 24	7, 21, 28	6, 20	10, 17, 24	1, 8

# Sacrament Schedule 2023/2024

## SACRAMENTAL NOTES

In an attempt to foster the understanding of parents being the primary teachers of the faith to their children, our sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and Communion asks that **parents be present** during the formation days noted below. This will serve as an opportunity, in addition to attending Sunday Mass and praying together at home, to grow in faith as a family and illustrate that learning about Our Lord and His Church is a lifelong journey even their parents are continuing to pursue! Children eligible to receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will receive an invitation and registration letter prior to preparation's start. If you are new to the parish, do not receive a letter regarding receiving the sacraments, or have any questions/concerns, please call the parish office.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Children prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation are: (a) baptized (b) attending Sunday Mass and (c) had two years or are in the midst of their second year of faith formation.

Formation Day 1	Formation Day 2	First Reconciliation
December 9, 2023 10:00 AM	January 20, 2024 10:00 AM	February 3, 2024 10:00 AM

## SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Children prepared to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion are: (a) baptized (b) attending Sunday Mass and (c) had three years or are in the midst of their third year of faith formation

Formation Day 1	Formation Day 2	First Holy Communion Mass
February 24, 2024 10:00 AM	March 9, 2024 10:00 AM	April 14, 2024 1:00 PM

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Unlike the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion, the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation is not a priest but a bishop. That being said, planning a date for Confirmation (and also the retreat to occur prior to it) will be dependent on Bishop McClory's schedule. Once the spring date is finalized, we will communicate that information to you. Thank you for your understanding!

## Important Notes for Sacraments

As the events of 2020 showed us, things can change in the blink of an eye due to previously unforeseen circumstances. Above you will find our planned calendar of events for our sacraments. Please know that these might be subject to change.

# RCIA for Children

Rite to Christain Initiation (RCIA) with children is suited for students who are older than second grade and have not yet received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation or Holy Eucharist. Children and parents will participate in an RCIA process that will prepare them for their sacraments.

Candidate Children who have been baptized will be received into the Church, and receive their First Reconciliation in the winter of 2023, and their First Communion at Easter Vigil 2023. Catechumenate Children who are unbaptized will receive Baptism and First Eucharist at Easter Vigil 2023. Students will join the Religious Education Program at their grade level following the process and become prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The parents of these students should contact the religious education office (219-926-1282) for more information. Fees for RCIA with Children is \$130 with a \$25 sacrament fee for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation, and \$35 for 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist.

## RCIA WITH CHILDREN CLASS SCHEDULE 2023-2024 WEDNESDAY EVENING 5:15 – 6:30 P.M.

August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024
23, 30	13, 20, 27	11, 18	1, 8, 15	6, 13, 20	17, 24	7, 21, 28	6, 20	10, 17, 24	1, 8

# The Jesus and Me Program

**Jesus & Me is a Faith Formation program designed for children ages 3 – K** and is a wonderful introduction to faith & prayer for your child. We learn bible stories based on Sunday Mass readings through songs, crafts & games while young pre-school aged children learn to express a friendship & trusting relationship with Jesus. Classes meet in the Kindergarten room on the Sunday schedule (See schedule, page 2) from 9:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M. from August – May. Registration information will be mailed to homes and available in the Faith Formation office (Parish Office) beginning on May 15, 2023 The cost is \$45 for the first child and an additional \$15 for any additional Jesus and Me children. Please contact Chris Friel evenings, at 926-1637, or the parish office for more information.