

Why is St. Catharine using Family Faith formation instead of the classroom model?

What if there was a way to spend more quality time with your children doing things that truly mattered? We want to help you to do that! As St. Mother Teresa says, "The family that prays together, stays together."

Along with other Catholic leaders, we have learned from experience that simply being dropped off for PSR does not have a great enough impact on the development of a child's Faith.

Our goal is to help families grow in Faith together, with parents and children involved in fun activities and conversations that lay a strong foundation for Faith. We want to support you in your work of educating your children in the Catholic Faith. Our goal is to provide you with the tools you need in your everyday life so that Faith becomes woven into the fabric of your family. Thank you for joining us and trusting in this new approach!

Is there a lot of work involved for me? How much time will this program take?

No. There are short family activities each month that require minimal preparation on your part.

What if the parent doesn't know the Faith well?

Seek and Root helps parents gain knowledge of the Faith and confidence through activities and discussion with other parents, led by Mike Denz, our Director of Adult Faith Formation. Each session will equip parents to help their children to fall in love with Jesus through the everyday practices of our Catholic Faith. At the same time, children will have lots to share about their own experiences at Seek and Root - songs, games, and activities that relate to the parent topics.

How old are children who can participate in Family of Faith?

Children in grades 1st-8th are invited and encouraged to experience Family of Faith at St. Catharine.

What about PSR/CCD classes?

PSR families should participate along with the rest of our parish in Family of Faith. All families with children in first through eighth grades are strongly encouraged to register and attend Family of Faith together. Families with children preparing to receive a Sacrament, should be enrolled in (and regularly attending) Family of Faith for two consecutive years.

Additional classes and retreats for Sacramental preparation (i.e., First Reconciliation, First Communion, & Confirmation classes) will be offered throughout the year. We believe that this format is better suited to provide true spiritual formation to the children and their families.

What about sacramental preparation?

Children preparing to receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (usually in second grade) or Confirmation (usually in eighth grade) will have additional sessions throughout the two years prior to receiving the Sacrament with a catechist to prepare them for those Sacraments. Sacrament preparation can begin in first grade for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Sacrament preparation can begin in seventh grade for Confirmation.

At St Catharine, we realize that "parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute". (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2221, 2223)

If you are preparing your child at home to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion or Confirmation at St. Catharine, please contact Toni Carmon, toni@stcatharine.com to let us know the materials you are using and to work out the details necessary for reception of the Sacraments.