



“One Faith, One Family” – Family Faith Formation 2023-24

Catholic faith formation is a lifelong process of spiritual growth, a search for understanding, and commitment to the faith and traditions of the Catholic Church. Our desire at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is to share as a community in the ministry of Christ, living as One Family and sharing in our One Faith. We hold dear the vital sacramental life of the Church – given to us by Christ – which calls each of us to act justly with love and mercy while living in communion with one another. Following Christ is a lifelong journey and we invite you to join us.

What is Family Faith Formation?

Family Faith Formation is a model of catechesis that places the joy of sharing the Catholic faith in the *domestic church, the family*. It equips and empowers families to learn about and practice the Catholic faith together, ultimately serving as a family formation model. Family Faith Formation will focus on each family’s relationship with the Lord and with one another, the life of prayer and ritual in the home, and the call to reach out and serve others as part of our baptismal mission. It will provide experiences of prayer, learning (catechesis), and service for families to participate in together.

How does Family Faith Formation work?

Family Faith Formation uses a religious education curriculum published by Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries. This curriculum provides the content and activities for at-home resources. It also includes meaningful, at-church sessions meant to enhance the at-home experiences, which will be held on occasional Wednesday evenings throughout the school year.

When is Family Faith Formation?

The Family Faith Formation curriculum is flexible. Individualized family “calendars” will be provided, allowing for at-home sessions to be experienced according to what works best with your family obligations – certainly, though, to be made a priority in a family’s weekly schedule.

Why Family Faith Formation?

For some time, the Holy Spirit has been leading the Catholic Church in new directions for Religious Education. We have seen a need and have the ability to follow where the Spirit is leading. Studies have shown that grade-level, in-person religious education classes, which were effective in past decades, are no longer the best model for helping young people learn, live, and LOVE our Catholic faith. Here are some compelling reasons why Family Faith Formation has been developed here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

- With a family faith formation model, *we journey with families where they are* in the faith, and move forward together.
- A family faith formation model *works to form and equip parents* not only to teach their children, but to exemplify how to *live and incorporate the faith authentically* at home.
- Family faith formation *helps forge relationships* among Catholic families in our parish.

Who is Family Faith Formation for?

All St. Elizabeth Ann Seton families with students in 1 through 12th grade who are not enrolled in Catholic school should be participating in Family Faith Formation; those who are enrolled in Catholic school are welcome and encouraged to participate. The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Director of Religious Education will be the organizer and primary catechist, with assistance from other catechists and volunteers.

Special Notes for Family Faith Formation Sacramental Preparation:

For First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion: Students must be at least seven years old and in the 2nd grade.

For Confirmation: Students must be at least in the 8th grade.

Students in sacramental preparation may have additional tasks assigned, and activities scheduled, to fulfill preparation requirements.

Family Faith Formation Catechists and Volunteers

Catechists and volunteers are needed to accompany our families, particularly for our at-church Family Faith Formation sessions. It is not necessary to have children in the program for you to serve; only online Youth Protection (VIRTUS) training is required. Volunteers are also needed for special events. To volunteer, contact Kathy Stafford at 903.539.8880.

Family Faith Formation Registration and Important Dates:

Religious Education registration for the 2023-2024 school year:

Sunday, July 30th through Sunday, August 27th

Introductory Family Meetings:

1st, 3rd-7th grades – Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 6:00-6:45pm, Parish Hall*

2nd grade – Sunday, August 20th, 10:00-10:45am, Youth Room*

8th grade – Sunday, August 27th, 10:00-10:45am, Parish Hall*

*fees are due at these Introductory Parent Meetings, to ensure timely receipt of necessary materials

Family Faith Formation Sessions Begin:

1st, 3rd-7th grades – Week of September 24th (ongoing faith formation)

2nd grade – Week of September 24th (First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion)

8th grade – Week of October 1st (Confirmation)

Important Dates:

First Reconciliation – Saturday, December 9, 2023 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Diocesan Confirmation – Saturday, January 21, 2024 at Cathedral of St. Paul

First Holy Communion – Sunday, May 5, 2024 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Family Faith Formation Rates:

\$30 per student – maximum \$75/family

\$50 for sacramental preparation year – maximum \$100/family

Use this QR code to register online:

