



A Family of Faith **St. Matthew Family Faith Formation Program**

**FAITH * FAMILY *
COMMUNITY**



VISION: The vision for *A Family of Faith* is strong Catholic families in which children learn the joys of following Jesus Christ and the truths of their faith through the witness of Christian life given by their parents. **This program is designed for youth in grades K-8 along with their families. Young people in grades 6-8 will be introduced to Youth Ministry at the Friday Family Sessions!**

RATIONALE: Effective and lasting faith formation must be anchored in family life. *Countless studies have shown that parental engagement with children is the single most effective way to develop young people into disciples of Christ.* Family-based models are fundamental to developing a faith life that is lived out in the family and in a community.

GOALS:

- To encourage and equip parents in their role in forming their children in the faith
- To support and nurture strong Catholic families
- To provide parents the opportunity for their own spiritual growth and knowledge
- To build a community whereby families can celebrate Catholic life together through common prayer, service to others, social activities, and liturgical celebrations

Discover the faith you didn't know you were looking for!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

A Family of Faith is a family-centered program designed with two sessions per month:

1. **An Adult Session** where adults gather with other parents/grandparents/caregivers, learn more about the material they will be covering with their families, grow in their own faith, and enjoy a supportive community.
2. **A Community Session** where families participate in prayer, service, social activities, and liturgical celebrations.

Between the meetings, parents/grandparents/caregivers work with their children on the material for that month in their *A Family of Faith* books at home.

FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM:

- **Convenient - One Book for the Whole Family:** The content rotates on a four-year cycle so that on a given year, all family members explore the same material together.
- **Flexible and Individualized:** The program is designed with a Parent's Guidebook and a Youth Activity Book. The books are broken up into monthly units that include two lessons per month, with a selection of activities for each lesson. The intention is not to complete every activity, but to complete those activities that are most appropriate for each family.
- **Supportive - Monthly Format:** Families are supported with the Adult Sessions that offer content that will be covered, and learning is reinforced in the monthly Community Session.

Family Faith Formation at St. Matthew Parish

2023-2024

Adult Sessions (Choose 1 Monthly Session Below)		Family Sessions (Choose 1 Monthly Session Below)		
		Whole Family attends. Family sessions include family activities, service projects, prayer, liturgical celebrations / activities, and lots of opportunities for community.		
SUNDAY 1x Month 10:30-11:30am in Parish Center	WEDNESDAY 1x Month 6:00-7:00pm in Parish Center	FRIDAY 1x Month 5:30-6:30pm in Parish Center	FRIDAY 1x Month 7:00-8:00pm in Parish Center	SUNDAY 1x Month 10:30-11:30am In Parish Center
Sun, Sep 10, 2023 Sun, Oct 15, 2023 Sun, Nov 5, 2023 Sun, Dec 3, 2023 Sun, Jan 7, 2024 Sun, Feb 4, 2024 Sun, Mar 3, 2024 Sun, Apr 7, 2024 Sun, May 5, 2024	Wed, Sep 13, 2023 Wed, Oct 18, 2023 Wed, Nov 8, 2023 Wed, Dec 6, 2023 Wed, Jan 10, 2024 Wed, Feb 7, 2024 Wed, Mar 6, 2024 Wed, Apr 10, 2024 Wed, May 8, 2024	Fri, Sep 22, 2023 Fri, Oct 20, 2023 Fri, Nov 17, 2023 Fri, Dec 15, 2023 Fri, Jan 19, 2024 Fri, Feb 16, 2024* Fri, Mar 29, 2024** Fri, Apr 12, 2024 Fri, May 17, 2024		Sun, Sep 24, 2023 Sun, Oct 22, 2023 Sun, Nov 19, 2023 Sun, Dec 17, 2023 Sun, Jan 21, 2024 NA-See Stations NA-See Paschal Perf. Sun, April 14, 2024 Sun, May 19, 2024
		*Stations of the Cross 7pm in the Church **Paschal Performance 6pm Warde Ctr		

PROGRAM MATERIALS: ORDER MATERIALS ASAP to allow for shipping.

1. A *Family of Faith* books are ordered online at:
<https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/order-form/family-of-faith>
2. Scroll down until you see: *Family of Faith Volume IV: Christian Prayer* (Orange)
3. Order (1) Parent Guide and (1) Children's Activity Book – Make sure it's Volume IV
4. At checkout, enter the discount code: **Matthew40**
You will receive a 40% discount on the listed price! Expect shipping to take 10-14 days.
5. You can also order your books by calling (800) 888-9344. This is especially recommended if you are ordering close to the start of the program or if books are backordered.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AND MATERIALS:

1. Materials for Sacramental Preparation will be distributed at our Adult Sessions.
 - a. Reconciliation (children in grades 2 and older and who are attending Mass and participating in the Family of Faith Program regularly)
 - b. Confirmation and First Holy Communion (children in grades 3 and older who are attending Mass and participating in the Family of Faith Program regularly) who have celebrated their First Reconciliation
2. Once Reconciliation materials are completed, the child will come for a practice session with Colleen and then arrange a time to celebrate his or her first Reconciliation with the pastor.
3. These materials are completed at home, and learning and preparation will be affirmed with a retreat experience in the early spring for Confirmation/First Communion.

QUESTIONS: Contact Colleen Strang, Family Faith Formation Coordinator at (603) 893-3336.