



St. Mary Parish

# 2024-2025 Faith Formation Parent Letter

## Welcome!

It is a great privilege to be part of your children's faith formation and their opportunity to grow with God. As parents, **YOU** are the **PRIMARY EDUCATORS**. At St. Mary Parish we hope to guide and support you along the way. Our faith formation program strives to:

- Develop spiritual values
- Provide opportunities to serve their community
- Increase their knowledge of faith and Catholic traditions
- Deepen their relationship with our loving God
- Enrich their prayer life

This is also a wonderful opportunity for you to grow in faith alongside your children.

## New Items This Year:

- Family Catechesis
- Family Formation Hours

## Family Catechesis

This year we are adding a Family Catechesis program for families to learn from each other and grow in faith as a community. This new program expands on what it means to be the **primary educator** and help you fulfil this responsibility. Please refer to the following link to find out more about the curriculum.

[A Family of Faith Series - Sophia Teachers.](#)

This program will be welcome to **ALL**.

The cost is \$10 per family with enrolled child(ren) and \$45 per family if no child(ren).

## Family Formation Hours

In an effort to keep costs from increasing, our program will be requiring 5 volunteer hours per family to our parish. Volunteer opportunities are as follows:

- Parish Events or Fundraisers – See [link](#)
- CFF Program (requires SE training & fingerprinting)
- Liturgical Ministries (if registered in parish)

There are many ways to volunteer, and we thank you in advance for all your help and assistance.

## Program Overview

Our traditional Faith Formation program for 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade uses a curriculum which is approved by the Diocese of Sacramento. This traditional Faith Formation program fosters a lifelong relationship with God by engaging children in the full and authentic teachings of the Catholic Church. Weekly classes are one hour and are offered on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00pm beginning early September through mid-May. All the teachers are volunteers.

**All sacraments require a two-year preparation time period.**

**First Eucharist and Reconciliation** are traditionally celebrated at the end of the 2nd grade. Sacramental preparation begins in the 1st grade and enrollment is required both years.

**Confirmation** is celebrated at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Sacramental preparation begins in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and enrollment is required both years.

## Curriculum

- ✝ **Pflaum:** (1st - 8th) The lectionary-based program and a wonderful way to learn more about the Bible and the readings for Sunday's Mass. The curriculum will be for the Sunday following classes, so your child will be familiar with the readings at Mass. Pflaum offers many expanded activities that your student(s) will be using in class. Family resources can be found under "Free Online Resources" at [Pflaum Gospel Weeklies](#).

## Parent Responsibilities

As a parent, you model your faith for your children daily. We ask you to:

- Ensure that your child(ren) attend class regularly and is **on time**. We look for students to not miss more than **three (3)** class sessions in a school year. For any absences, please plan with your child's Catechist to get the lesson(s) that they have missed. This is especially important in sacrament years, to ensure they are prepared thoroughly. **Excessive absences could cause a delay in receiving the sacraments.**
- Drop off your child no more than 10 minutes prior to class. Attend Mass weekly as a family. **Faith Formation classes do not take the place of attending mass!**
- Communicate with your child's Catechist any special needs or circumstances.
- Stay involved in the parish through parish activities

## Arrival and dismissal



**All students will be dropped off at the school corridor gate in the parking lot of the school. No parents will be allowed on the campus. Parents attending Family Catechesis will enter the 8th grade room from the parking lot. There will be volunteers who will check your children in and dismiss your children through the same gate.**

Our Teachers have prepared a weekly lesson and will start and end class on time. It is disruptive if students arrive late or leave class earlier than the regular dismissal time. Please be considerate of the one hour dedicated each week to the faith formation classes for your child(ren). **Lastly, we ask that children are picked up and taken home as soon as class is over so that the school buildings can be secured in a timely manner. Thank you!**

## In Closing – A Parent's Prayer

Loving God, You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all our blessings. We thank and praise you. Thankyou for the gift of our children. Help us to set boundaries for them and yet encourage them to explore. Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start. May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love, so they may know peace, truth and goodness. May their ears hear your voice. May their eyes see your presence in all things. May their lips proclaim your word. May their hearts be your dwelling place. May their hands do works of charity. May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or for more information about our activities and schedules. We look forward to growing in faith together and witnessing the wonderful ways in which God will work in our lives.

Once again, welcome to our Faith Formation program. May God bless you and your family abundantly as we walk this path of faith together.

In Christ,

Monica Saldana

CFF Coordinator

St. Mary Parish

[CFFMonica@gmail.com](mailto:CFFMonica@gmail.com)

916-716-4269 (call or txt)



St. Mary Parish

# 2024-2025 Faith Formation Registration

Please complete this form and return it to the CFF Coordinator or Parish Office along with the required fee(s). If your child is registering for a Year 2 Sacrament, please also turn in a newly issued (not the original and not a copy) Baptismal Certificate.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$50 per child

**ADDITIONAL FEES:**

Year 2 Reconciliation/1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist + \$50 | Year 2 Confirmation + \$25

Family Catechesis + \$10 per family

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your child in a Year 2 Sacrament Class this year? \_\_\_ Reconciliation/1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist \_\_\_ Confirmation

Will your family be attending Family Catechesis? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you give permission for St. Mary Parish to publish pictures of your child (taken at CFF classes/events) in the bulletin, on the website, or on parish social media? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

**Home Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's/Legal Guardian's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Text OK? Y N

**Mother's/Legal Guardian's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Text OK? Y N

**Is your family registered at St. Mary Parish?** Yes No

If no, where is your family registered? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list any special learning, behavioral or health needs your child may have:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** If I and/or my spouse are unavailable, please contact the following person and/or allow them to pick up/drop off my teen(s) in the event of an emergency:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**For Office Use Only:** Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_