

**The Parish of the Most Holy Name of Jesus  
Faith Formation**

1010 Davis Street, Elmira, NY 14901  
(607) 733-3484

**Returning  
Families**

June 2019

Dear Parents and Families,

With this year's programs finished, we invite you to register for the fall programs.

**Registration for 2019-20.** Our program will be structured much as it was this year. You have a basic choice between our Sunday morning program and our Family Ed program (Mondays or Wednesdays). While very different in style, both programs provide a solid foundation in our Catholic faith. Families solidify that foundation by attending Mass regularly and by practicing their faith at home.

If your child will receive First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion this year, that preparation is done in parallel with the child's regular faith formation. Please mark this as "needed" under the registration form.

When registering your child(ren) and family (the form is attached), please indicate which session you prefer to attend:

***Sunday Morning Religious Ed:*** Our traditional Sunday morning program will continue to meet by grade for grades K-7. It starts at 9:00 am with dismissal at 10:15 am. Classes start September 22<sup>nd</sup>; parents need to attend the opening session. Parents will be asked to sign up for one Sunday class where they can be hall monitors. This was a great help this year and we thank you for your service.

***Family Ed -- Monday or Wednesday (you choose the day that fits your schedule).*** Family Ed consists of two parts:

1. Once a month, there is a 2-hour session for children and their families/parents. Each session focuses on a particular topic.
2. During the intervening weeks (between the in-person sessions) the families review and discuss the upcoming Sunday readings in preparation for Sunday Mass, and do at-home activities based on the session.

Sessions start in early October (Oct 7 and 9) and continue monthly through May. Sessions meet from 6:00 – 8:00. We need a minimum of 10 families to hold a session. If the program continues to grow, we will add a second Wednesday group this year.

***First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation (Confession):*** These sacraments are typically celebrated in second grade with a 2-year preparation cycle. Whether part of one of the parish faith formation programs (above) or attending Holy Family Catholic School, your child's immediate preparation for the sacraments is a partnership between the family and parish. Preparation for the sacraments is in addition to the child's normal faith formation / religious education.

We will be sending more information soon. The parent information session for First Reconciliation will be October 2<sup>nd</sup>. First Reconciliation will be celebrated in December. Preparation for First Holy Communion will start in January, with celebration of the sacrament in May. Children must celebrate First Reconciliation prior to receiving First Holy Communion.

**Confirmation:** If your child is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or higher and wishes to be confirmed, it is a 2-year preparation cycle which includes classes and outreach/service. Our parish youth minister has more information about the process. Separate registration forms are available.

**Grade Masses:** Continuing this year, children in grades 3-7 will be invited to host one Sunday Mass per grade during the year. They will minister as ushers, readers, greeters and more. Prior to their Mass, there will be a practice so that they are prepared for this exciting opportunity. A schedule and more details will be published in the fall.

**Family Email:** In order to reach you quickly and easily, we will be making email our primary method of communication. Please make sure that the email on your registration form is valid and readable. If email is not a good way to reach you, please put a note on your form and we will continue to use postal mail. You may include more than one email if parents wish to / need to receive separate emails, and/or a grandparent should be included.

**Registration Fees / Finances:** The program fees have been increased this year to help cover the cost of the materials used; however, if you register by August 15<sup>th</sup> then the early bird discount applies and the fees are identical to the past year. If you need help with the fees, please contact Sister Sue. Finances should never prevent your child/ren from attending Faith Formation classes. If you are able, please consider contributing to a “scholarship fund” (any amount, to help those families in need. All financial information is kept confidential.

We look forward to a great year of Faith Formation! If you have any questions, you may contact Sister Sue ([susan.ssnd@dor.org](mailto:susan.ssnd@dor.org)) or Mary Beth Prechtel, Faith Formation Secretary ([mary.beth.prechtel@dor.org](mailto:mary.beth.prechtel@dor.org)) by calling the Faith Formation Office at 733-3484.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister Susan Czaplicki, SSND  
Director, Faith Formation

Rev. Scott M. Kubinski  
Pastor

~~~~~ **Faith Formation / Family Partnership and Expectations** ~~~~~

**Forming the current generation of Catholics requires help from a number of sources.** It is a partnership between the parish and the family. Parish classes provide new information and experiences; daily family life incorporates and reinforces those experiences into the life of the child. Mass and prayer bring us into closer relationship with God!

Our children's faith becomes strong, just as ours continues to grow, through regular practice. Mature faith comes from:

- Active **participation in Liturgy** (Mass) each week unless there is a significant reason preventing attendance.
- **Regular attendance at Faith Formation** classes – both during any given year and from year to year. Students must complete earlier years of classes to fully understand and appreciate the later years.
- **Knowledge and practice of prayers.** There are basic prayers which we expect our students to know at each grade level. We have prayer books available in the office for your convenience.
- Active involvement in our Catholic call to **serve others.** While we will provide information about some opportunities and even sponsor specific events, it is up to each child / family to find ways to fulfill Jesus' call to serve others.
- **Family participation** – in living out your faith together as a family.

Faith Formation classes alone are not enough for a child/teen to truly grow in his/her faith. We look forward to working together with you.