



St. Margaret Mary
Catholic Church

Faith Formation for Children
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PARENT BROCHURE 2018-2019

Vision Statement

The goal of faith formation is to have catechesis for all ages from preschool to adult by forming a learning community of believers. By awakening our baptismal call to holiness, individuals will be brought into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ in their life-long journey of faith through prayer and the sacraments to truly experience connectedness in the Body of Christ.



At St. Margaret Mary Church, faith formation begins in the preschool years.

Sunday Mornings with Jesus for 3 year olds meets on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 A. M. Mass. Classes are held in the classroom adjacent to the Parish Nursery. Children need to be three years old by September 1, 2018.

Four-year-old preschool is held in the parish grade school from 10:45 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. A qualified catechist leads the session. Children must be four years old by September 1, 2018.

Parents are required to sign their children IN/OUT for each class for three-year-old and four-year-old preschool. Parents are welcome to assist with these classes.



School age Children attend Faith Formation classes on Sunday mornings from 10:45 A. M. to 11:45 A. M. Children in 4-year-old Pre-K through Grade 5 meet in the parish school rooms with their peers to grow in their faith. Catechists follow the curriculum developed by Our Sunday Visitor Religion publishers in the series called, *Alive in Christ*. Weekly attendance is essential to establish a peer community of believers. (See enclosed calendar for exact dates of all classes.)

Please note: Classes will begin promptly at 10:45 A. M. Children are not allowed in the classrooms unattended. A catechist must always be present. Please have children finish all donuts/food prior to the start of class. Parents of children in Pre-K and K must sign their children IN/OUT each class. Parents of children from preschool to the third grade are required to accompany their children to and from class. Fourth and fifth grade children must be picked up in the classroom by parents/guardians at the end of class. Please do not ask your children to meet you in the parking lot. It is unsafe.

Parent participation is encouraged in our faith formation classes during the year.

Look for Special Events Days

On **October 28** we will have an **All Saints Celebration**, and the entire family is invited. *Learning about L.I.F.E.* classroom sessions will be held for each grade level throughout the year. .

The Office of Faith Formation is located on the 2nd floor of the Family Life Center. Our Office hours are Sunday, and Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. We have resources to assist you with your family faith development. Call or email to make an appointment.



Faith Formation for Children

Family Faith Sundays

This program is offered as another option to assist parents in encouraging their children's emerging faith. Parents accompany their children approximately twice a month to explore Catholic Tradition, the Sunday Scripture readings and to meet other parishioners. Classes are from 10:45 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. at the Family Life Center. The families are then responsible to complete the assignments at home using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies and handbooks. All resources and activities are provided by the Faith Formation Office.

"The mind of the intelligent gains knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge,"
Proverbs 2: 15.

Dates for Family Faith Sundays 2018-2019

September 16

October 7

October 21

November 4

December 16

January 6

January 27

February 3

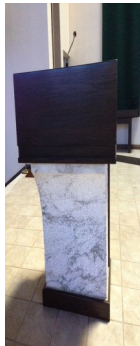
February 17

March 3

March 10

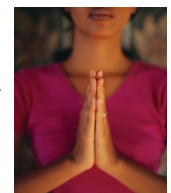


Liturgy and Children



Celebrating the Eucharist is at the heart of our Catholic faith. At St. Margaret Mary Church we offer a separate Liturgy of the Word for children. All children in the parish from the ages of five through the fifth grade are invited to participate in the Liturgy of the Word held during the 5 P.M. Vigil Mass and the 9:30 A.M. Mass. Children participate fully in the responses and postures of the Mass. "The primary purpose of dismissing children for a separate Liturgy of the Word is to provide them with a focused environment where they are more likely to become conscious, active listeners and responders to God's

In his exhortation *Gaudete Et Exsultate*, Pope Francis says that Jesus explained what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes. These explain what we must do to be a good Christian. The Beatitudes are a Christian's identity card. "In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of our master which we are called to reflect in our daily lives." During the year, children in Faith Formation and Family Faith will learn these attitudes for holiness and how to adopt them for everyday living. God's message in Scripture also calls us to holiness. Knowing how to use the Bible is essential, so every family must have access to a Bible. St. Paul tells us that all Scripture is breathed out by God.



Children develop a true relationship with God through prayer. These are some of the prayers which children should learn from preschool through fifth grade: Sign of the Cross, Guardian Angel Prayer, Grace Before Meals, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Revised Act of Contrition, Apostles' Creed, Come, Holy Spirit, Memorare, Act of Faith.

Sacrament Programs

At St. Margaret Mary we follow the guidelines from the Diocese of Orlando.



“Because Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a meal, there is a close relationship between families and the Mass,” says Pope Francis.

- The Church recommends that preparation for the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion be separate and distinct from one another.
- Preparation for Penance is offered prior to the celebration of First Holy Communion. Preparation and celebration take place within the church community.

Preparation sessions are joint child/parent sessions so that families journey together in this faith process.

Preparation for Penance 2018

Children in the second grade and older will prepare for the Sacrament of Penance. Parents are also encouraged to participate in celebrating the sacrament of God’s mercy.

Child/Parent Preparation Sessions

Tuesday, October 2 & 16, 2018

6:45-8 PM; Meet in the Church

Retreat: Oct. 23 **OR** Nov. 6 (6:45-8 P.M.) You will be assigned one date.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance

Saturday, November 10, 2018, at 9 A.M.

OR

Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 7 P.M.

Families choose the date that is best.



Preparation for First Communion 2019

Parish children in the 2nd grade and older are prepared for the sacrament through the Office of Faith Formation for Children. Children experience parts of the Mass through Scripture readings, prayer and age appropriate activities. Parents attend presentations that delve into adult issues related to the Eucharist. Through sacrament preparation, the entire family can gain a stronger connection to our church community.

CHILD/PARENT PREPARATION SESSIONS

TUESDAYS, 6:45-8:00 P.M. Meet in the Church

January 15

February 19

March 12

April 9

Retreat Saturdays: February 23 **OR** March 2
(9 A.M. –11 A.M. OR 12:30-2:30 P.M.) Choose one.

The celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be at the 5 PM, 9:30 AM and Noon Masses on April 27-28 and May 4-5.

Please Save These Dates



IMPORTANT DATES FOR FAMILIES

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| August 11-12 | Registration for All Faith Formation Programs |
| August 19 | <u>Family Faith Orientation</u> , 10:45 AM, Antioch Room |
| August 26 | Kick-off/Breakfast for <u>Faith Formation Classes</u> , 10:45 AM |
| September 9 | Classes begin for SUNDAY MORNINGS WITH JESUS; FAITH FORMATION Class resumes. |
| September 16 | Classes begin for FAMILY FAITH |
| September 29 | Family Service Night, 6 PM, Parish Hall |
| October 2 | SACRAMENT PREPARATION begins, 6:45 PM, Church |
| October 28 | ALL SAINTS CELEBRATION for Faith Formation Classes |
| November 11 | Just for Parents-Chat and Chew Session, 10:45 AM |
| January 13 | Just for Parents-Chat and Chew Session, 10:45 AM |

The diocese suggests the number of classes that we offer and urges steady, regular attendance. Our first Faith Formation session will be with parents and children on Sunday, August 26, at 10:45 am in the Parish Hall. Please come to have breakfast together and meet the catechists.

Family Faith and Faith Formation families participate in the diocesan-mandated program, *Learning about L.I.F.E.* This is a faith-based program which promotes safe environment awareness as well as chastity and virtues education. In the classroom trained catechists present the teaching of the Catholic Church concerning the sacredness of the human body and the dignity of the individual. Parents continue this discussion at home with parent materials. The diocese requires attendance at *Learning about L.I.F.E. sessions* or a signed opt-out form. Please submit this form at registration.