

**St. Mary/St. John Faith Formation Office**  
**528 Second St.**  
**Menasha, WI 54952**  
**920-725-7714**  
**menashacatholicparishes.org**



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Dear Parent/Guardians,

We invite you to take a look at St. Mary's/St. John's Faith Formation program. Classes about our Catholic faith are for children in grades 1-11. Sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation are offered, as well as adult faith formation on various topics. There is a commitment from Father Paider, our staff and volunteers along with you, to teach your children about Jesus Christ and His Church. This letter is a brief overview of the program.

For those of you that have not been involved in Faith Formation for a while or in the Catholic Faith, we would like to invite you back. We have RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) for both adults and children to help you get reacquainted or to start anew.

The faith formation offices are located at the St. Mary's site, 528 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. There are approximately 22 volunteers that team-teach the children. Not only do the catechists come to class each week for the kids, they also prepare ahead of time to best utilize the 1 hour and 15 minutes they have with the children. All of our catechists are required to work at their catechetical certification, and continue to grow in their own faith and knowledge.

Grades 1-8 use the textbooks Be My disciples by RCL Benzinger. This series is a unique process that spirals Catholic knowledge from one year to the next. Grades 9-11 use The Catholic Faith Handbook (Third Edition) by St. Mary's Press. In addition grade 9 uses the Teen Timeline by Ascension Press, and the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade adds Theology of the Body for Teens by Ascension Press. All of the textbooks are in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and our Diocese.

To go along with creating an atmosphere for intellectual knowledge of our faith, we also want to give our students and families a chance to really take to heart the mission of Jesus Christ and grow in their love for Him. There are some nights like "Family Night Service Project", "Family Night of Reconciliation" and special Masses when families come together for a particular event, or worship.

Each regular faith formation night, "Eucharistic Adoration" is going on in the Chapel. We call this "Feed Your Soul". This gives us the opportunity to have some quiet time with Jesus. Though Wednesday nights can be hectic, a meal is provided by some wonderful volunteers before class (Feed Your Body). This is a blessing for our families to turn this hectic night into a relaxing one.

**Wednesday nights are not just for kids anymore!** There are adult faith formation classes held on faith formation nights and other special offerings for our parents too.

Enclosed you will find an updated registration form for your convenience. Please return it to the Parish Office as soon as you can. We are happy to answer any questions that you may have, so please do not hesitate to call. May God bless you and your family.

In His service,

*Sally*

Sally Michalkiewicz  
Faith Formation Director

*Joanne*

Joanne Vanness  
Faith Formation Coordinator