

Family Formation Frequently Asked Questions

What does the Family Formation program look like?

Once per month, parents (at least one) and children will gather at the parish for In Person Sessions. While the children are in class each month, parents will attend the Parent Session which will incorporate Adult Formation over the topic their children are learning, practical tips on raising children in the Catholic faith, information on the upcoming Home Lessons, and opportunities to discuss with other families with young children.

For the remaining weeks of the month, parents will lead Home Lessons with their children (all together as a family) once per week at time that works for each family. All the materials and information to lead these lessons will be given at the parent meetings.

Families are also invited to attend the Family Connect Nights throughout the year to celebrate liturgical feasts and build community with other families.

What is the most difficult part of this program?

The biggest challenge to families is simply finding the time to do *Family Formation* each week. An advantage of *Family Formation* is that families are not committed to attending a class at a specified time each week but, rather, each family can find the time that works best in their particular schedule. For many, the traditional Wednesday church night works because there are often fewer school and extracurricular activities scheduled at that time while others often choose Sundays as part of their way to keep the Sabbath holy.

How can parents who do not feel adequately catechized teach the children the Faith at home?

Parents do not have to be experts in the Faith to use *Family Formation*. Each lesson is written at an elementary school level and is easily understood by most everyone. By simply spending a small amount of time in pre-reading the lesson each week, parent can become familiar with the topic. Additional references from *Scripture* and *the Catechism of the Catholic Church* are given for those interested in further study. One of the richest blessings of *Family Formation* comes as families learn about the beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith together. Many parents have testified to the fact that, through *Family Formation*, they have come to learn and understand the Catholic Faith for the first time.

How do you include younger and older children in the Home Lessons?

Each Home Lesson offers parents a great deal of flexibility and a variety of activities. This allows parents, who are best judges of their children's skills and attention spans, to tailor lessons to their family's needs. We encourage parents to challenge, but not overwhelm, their children. With younger children, it is recommended that parents approach topics at the most basic level knowing that they will be covered again the next time through the three-year cycle.