



St. Mary Magdalene Faith  
Formation Registration Packet 2020-2021  
Virtual Families Forming Disciples and Traditional Homeschool

Dear Families,

July 30, 2020

Thank you for entrusting your family to the Faith Formation sessions (FF) offered at Saint Mary Magdalene.

Registration is now open for the 2020.2021 Faith Formation. Our catechetical theme this year is “I received from the Lord, what I handed on to you!” Formation sessions begin September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The link for online registration and fee payments is found at the end of this letter. It would be most helpful if you could register no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>.

As a people of faith, we are all walking a journey which includes the Covid -19 virus. Collectively we are all looking at every aspect of our lives in new ways. During this time we are invited in a special way examine how our faith lives can be nurtured. We have long believed that Love is first known and demonstrated in the home and each home is known as a domestic church. We are here to support and encourage the discipleship you are fostering at home.

Faith formation will be offered with two options (with a potential third) to facilitate the needs of you and your family. As we all walk this uncharted territory, we will have to make adjustments. Much like the Israelites in the desert, we call upon God to guide and sustain us.

**OPTION # 1**

**Thematic Online at home: *Families Forming Disciples (FFD)* Offered Sunday, Monday and Tuesday**

This highly interactive at home family formation model is inclusive- for all members of the family. The entire family gathers together for a three week cycle of formation. Once a theme is complete, the next 3 week theme is introduced and the cycle continues. Formation grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> are included in this family model of formation and meet the formation requirement for the Archdiocese of Atlanta for grade levels 1 - 12.

This model allows for conversation between family members and your church community. Parents are supported and guided each week by catechists and other parents.

Week 1 – Online, virtual in person learning. A live catechist introduces theme and provides formation for the entire family.

Week 2 – The family works in the home with the theme following instructions from week 1.

Week 3 – Online virtual in person reflection and feedback based on learning from prior weeks. This includes small group formats such as breakout rooms with several families and catechists in each virtual breakout room.

**A computer, smart phone or smart TV with a camera and microphone will be necessary for this option.**

**OPTION # 2**

**Traditional Homestudy** using the Loyola Press curriculum which we have used for several years. This is driven by parental instruction of their own children using the current curriculum and a scope chart provided by the coordinator. Community faith gatherings will be extended to home study families, to foster connection

between the family and the parish. There are three additional discipleship/community projects which will be explained in the homestudy packet. These will be based upon diocesan directives. This model allows flexibility for families who travel extensively or who may not have digital capabilities. Study guides and online support will be provided for parents using this model.

### POTENTIAL Option # 3

January 2021 Transition from virtual to In Person *if possible* **In Real Life Formation** for grades 1 – 8 using the Loyola Press curriculum. Permission for in person formation will be determined by the diocese following *guidelines from our Bishop and Pastor. In person formation will meet every other week, or twice a month.*

The in-between week will include some at home activity for the family to do together. Sessions will be staffed and enrolled to ensure social distancing.

***All families who transition to this version must have one parent VIRTUS screened.*** We will likely need many substitutes and co-catechists for the foreseeable future. We must have two screened adults in every room. Sessions may be combined by grades based upon the number of children registered. Many of our catechists are in the extremely vulnerable population and cannot return to in person formation at this time.

To register for VIRTUS adult training, contact Gosha Schultheis [gschultheis@smmcatholic.org](mailto:gschultheis@smmcatholic.org) for background screening and registration information. VIRTUS sessions are offered all over Metro Atlanta, including St. Mary Magdalene.

Our plan for In Real Life Formation will be determined by the number of catechists and parents who are able to support in person formation efforts. If we do not have enough in person catechists we will not be able to offer in person sessions.

During this time of COVID, we hope our families are participating with the celebration of the mass in person or online.

Additional home formation may be enjoyed by subscribing to a free subscription to FORMED, a Catholic subscription service which has movies, bible studies, book studies, children’s videos and much, much more. Go to [www.smmcatholic.org](http://www.smmcatholic.org) , scroll to the bottom and click on the FORMED tab to sign up for this free subscription.

A new copy of your child’s baptismal form is required if you are new to the parish, and if your child will be celebrating the sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation. Contact the church of baptism, they will be happy to send you a copy. Copies of original forms will not be accepted.

#### Families Forming Disciples (FFD) sessions Offered Sunday, Monday and Tuesday

**Sunday**      **Virtual** Families Forming Disciples 10:30- 11:30a.m. Three week cycles 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade

**Youth Ministry In Real Life** – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 4- 5:00 p.m. twice a month.

**We hope** to offer high school level in person sessions. However, the **Families Forming Disciples** family formation will fulfil the 9<sup>th</sup> grade requirement for Confirmation Formation.

There will be Zoom or other activities and sessions developed to help foster community and interaction with our teens. In person sessions will be determined by directives from our Archbishop and Pastor as well as having the right number of catechists and adult monitors available to support in person gatherings on parish grounds.

**Monday**      **Virtual** Families Forming Disciples      7 – 8:00 p.m. Three week cycles 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> year.

**Tuesday**      **Virtual** Families Forming Disciples      12 – 1:00 p.m. Three week cycles 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> year.

**Elementary Formation and First Reconciliation/Communion formation.** Coordinated by Alyce Meadows. Alyce directs a talented pool of catechists dedicated to echoing Christ's teaching and supporting what parents have already begun modeling at home. The love of Christ is alive in the world. Will be offered as separate free-standing sessions.

### **Middle School Formation—David Smith**

We are excited to grow the middle school community and create a very special identity for our children. We will have additional all grade events as we are able.

**Youth Ministry** - Sessions continue to flourish under the direction of Mrs. Pixie Smith. Sunday sessions *IF POSSIBLE* for High School, 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 4 - 5:00 p.m. Youth participating in Families Forming Disciples are invited to youth group. Attending **Families Forming Disciples** does fulfill Faith Formation requirements.

**Confirmation** - Prerequisite two years of formation are required to enter the immersion formation sessions typically in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade year is required in addition to one year from middle school. The sacrament will be celebrated in the Easter season (April/May time frame). These sessions are separate from youth group. Separate information will be forwarded to eligible candidates.

### **REGISTRATION TUITION AND SACRAMENTAL FEES**

Full payment arrangements are required with the registration form. No registration will be processed without payment or payment arrangements. Sensitive to the economic times as many of us have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, the faith formation fee has been reduced to a flat \$100.00 fee per family. For those opting for traditional homeschool using the Loyola Press curriculum, there will be an additional \$20.00 cost per book. Each grade level has a separate book. Payment plans are available. Please fill out the scholarship form/payment form and indicate that you will be making payments. Payments are due in thirds. \$50.00 due with the registration form, \$25.00 on October 1<sup>st</sup> and \$25.00 on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

No child will be denied Faith Formation because of the inability to pay. However, *prior confidential arrangements* must be made with either the Pastor or Director of Faith Formation. A scholarship program is available for those who need. We do ask that in the future, when you are able, that you contribute to the scholarship program to help others in need.

### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR RECONCILIATION, EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION.**

We are currently evaluating various options. Alyce Meadows and Pixie Smith will be sending separate registration forms for children seeking these Sacraments of Initiation. These are separate free standing formation programs.

**If new to our parish – welcome!** We ask that you provide a letter from your previous parish describing your child's previous formation.

**All youth involved in a sacramental preparation year must provide a NEW baptismal form – please contact the church of baptism and ask them to send you a new one. Please do not bring copy or the original.**

### First Eucharist

Any child, who has just completed 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and/or will be entering the sacramental preparation program, may not have missed more than five (5) classes this past year. Alyce Meadows sent home notices to those families who may need to turn in work from last year. Due to the Covid pandemic, sessions after March are not included in this count. During the second year of formation, no more than 3 sessions may be missed. The archdiocesan guidelines for Penance and Eucharist state:

“The child should have attended a Catholic school, a parish religious education program, or are active in a home school religious education program for at least one year prior to beginning preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist.”

For the sacrament of Confirmation:

“Youth should have attended a Catholic school, a parish religious education program or an active home school religious education program for at least two years before enrollment in the parish Confirmation formation program.” One of the two years should be from the middle school years.

**Completion of Faith Formation level Credit** for completion of a year is given if your child misses 3 or fewer sessions this year.

### **ONLINE FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION LINK**

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-mary-magdalene-cath-church-1/forms/2020-2021-faith-formation-registration-1-1-1>

May our Risen Lord continue to guide us on our life long faith journey.

In Christ's Peace,

Kathy Kelly Huey, Director of Faith Formation

cc:

Pixie Smith, Youth Minister

9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade; David Smith, Middle School Coordinator, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade;

Alyce Meadows, Elementary Coordinator, PK- 5<sup>th</sup> grade;

Fr. Terry Crone, Pastor

**TUITION ASSISTANCE FORM 2020.2021**

Dear Parents;

July 30, 2020

We understand that in certain times financial assistance is needed to support families. Faith formation and spreading the Good News is the mandate that Jesus Christ gave the Church at Pentecost. We are here to help you in any way possible.

As the church, we do have fixed costs such as heating, electricity, the care of the physical church as well as salaries of the staff to help keep the church running from a practical standpoint. Tuition fees help offset *some* of the practical costs associated with the "physical church".

However one's ability to pay tuition does not and should not get in the way of you bringing your children to your parish family to help you with your child's faith formation. We have a scholarship program at the church to help one another.

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Total household income \_\_\_\_\_ Including any child support)

Please check one option below.

\_\_\_ I can make tuition payments for the \$100.00 formation tuition fee. I will make the payment schedule below.  
\$50.00 with registration form \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 due October 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 due December 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ I can make some payment – this is what I can afford \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I request a partial scholarship of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I will make payment by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

\_\_\_ I cannot afford the tuition this year and request a full scholarship.

Please return this confidential information to either Fr. Terry Crone or Kathy Kelly Huey. Please place this form in an envelope with both name above and mark the envelope on the outside "Confidential".

Thank you for the gift of your children and your faithfulness to Our Lord.

Peace,



Kathy Kelly Huey, Director, Faith Formation

Fr. Terry Crone Approval \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Payment plan approved \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of scholarship approved \$ \_\_\_\_\_