

Dear Families,

March 17, 2015

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

As our formal formation sessions at the parish are drawing to a close, we always look to the future. Your role as the domestic church, the at-home teaching of community, prayer life, and Mass attendance never ends. Home faith formation is central to your children's spiritual development. We have print and media resources available to you during the summer and access to online material. Please contact us if we can be of service to you in these areas. .

Enclosed you will find the registration form for next year. FF begins Sunday August 23, 2015 with parent meetings and the final session is Wednesday April 27, 2016. First Communion will be celebrated May 8, 2016. Volunteers will be at tables after all Masses on April 11th and 12th to receive early bird registration forms and payments. If new to the parish, registering your child for the first time, or if your child will be celebrating the sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation, please provide a NEW copy of a baptismal certificate. Contact the church of baptism, they will be happy to send you a copy.

Please note NO registrations will be accepted prior to the 5 p.m. Mass on April 11th.

Elementary sessions are coordinated by Mrs. April Smith and are offered on Sunday and Monday.

Sunday	1 st to 5 th Grade	10:15 – 11:30 a.m.
	High school	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
	Confirmation formation	<i>begins spring of the 9th grade year. A separate registration form and calendar will be provided to 9th graders in the fall.</i>
Monday	Pre K – 5 th Grade	4:15 – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Middle School	6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry Middle and High School – Toni Egan Youth Minister

We are excited to grow the middle school community and create a very special identity for our children on Wednesday evening. Sixth through eighth grade will meet from 6:45 to 8 p.m. Additional all grade events including speakers, off site trips, and periodic Praise & Worship will be included in the formation year.

High School and Confirmation sessions continue to flourish under the direction of Toni Egan. Sunday sessions for High School, 9th to 12th grade will meet 4 to 6:00p.m. Confirmation formation begins in the spring of the year preceding reception of the Sacrament. Formation begins in March and will be celebrate the following year in the April/May time frame. Pre-requisite two years of formation are required to enter the formation sessions; one of these years must be from middle school.

Home Schooling remains an option for our families during non-sacramental prep years. Parents are ultimately the primary church and models of faith for their children. A home school program and family sessions are offered for those who prefer this model of catechesis.

Adult Faith Formation sessions are offered during the summer and school year. Please watch the bulletin for these subjects and times. Life long faith formation keeps us intentional as we live our Baptisms.

Full payment arrangements are required with the registration form. No registration will be processed without payment or payment arrangements. Sensitive to the economic times, an early bird rate is offered when payment is made before May 1st. 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.

For parents who have students in **Middle** and **High School**, please fill out a separate medical release forms for each child. All students in grades 6 through 12 must fill one out for the entire school year. Once on file for this year, your child can partake in any community activity, on or off campus, with the event specific permission slip filled out prior to the event. Additional forms may be found on the church website.

All new students, registering for the first time at St. Mary Magdalene as well as all youth involved in a sacramental prep year must provide a NEW baptismal form – please contact the church of baptism and ask them to send you a new form.

Sacramental Preparation

If new to our parish – welcome. We ask that you provide a letter from your previous parish describing your child's course of faith formation at the old parish.

First Eucharist

Any child, who has just completed 1st Grade and/or will be entering the sacramental preparation program, may not have missed more than five (5) classes this past year, as well as five (5) this coming year. 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 Penance 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 must be from the middle school years.

The candidate shall not have missed more than two (2) immediate formation sessions or five (5) youth group sessions during the formation years.

If new to the parish, a letter from your previous parish indicating the requisite formation period is required along with a baptismal form.

If your child missed an exceptional amount of classes, more than 5, please call the Faith Formation office to set up an appointment with the Director of Faith Formation.

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: Toni Egan, Youth Minister
April Smith, Elementary Coordinator