

SAINT JOHN NEUMANN FOCUS ON FAMILY AND FORMATION

Parish Monthly Meetings

- ▲ Families gather at church once a month. Parents and students learn about the same topic of faith.
- ▲ Students in Grades K-5 meet in classes, divided by grade level. *Childcare for younger siblings
- ▲ Parents have a separate gathering where they are catechized, encouraged, and equipped in the transmission of faith in the home.
- ▲ Classroom catechists are provided complete curriculum, which is easy to use and engaging for the students.
- ▲ Families are given a packet of weekly Home Lessons to use for the rest of the month, at home with their children.

Weekly Home Lessons

- ▲ Enable parents to be the primary educators of their children in the Catholic Faith.
- ▲ Three monthly home lessons are easy-to-use and take approximately 45-60 minutes per week to complete.
- ▲ Keeps learning fun by using games, activities, booklets.
- ▲ Designed for kids in Grades K-5.
- ▲ Brings the family together to study each lesson and then apply it to their day-to-day family life.
- ▲ Reinforce Sunday Mass— *Family Formation* lessons reflect the liturgical year and immerse families into the life and seasons of the Church.

Looking for volunteers to serve as catechists in our monthly grade level classrooms. Volunteers join Nicole for a monthly training.

Q&A

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.
- One parent said, “[Thankfully] **Family Formation** forces the conversation of faith in the family!”
- **Family Formation** assists parents as the primary educators of their children.

How can parents who are not adequately catechized themselves, or feel that they are not, teach their children the Faith at home?

- As a parent, you do not have to be expert in the Faith to use **Family Formation**.
- Each lesson is written at an elementary school level, and is easily understood by everyone.
- By spending a small amount of time reading over the materials, parents can become familiar with the lesson.
- The blessings of **Family Formation** come as families learn about the beauty of the Catholic faith together.
- Many parents have testified that through **Family Formation** (home and parish gatherings) they have come to learn and understand the Catholic faith for the first time.

How does **Family Formation** and Sacramental Preparation work together?

- **Family Formation** will incorporate sacramental program. There are additional **Family Formation** materials for those with children who are excitedly preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the first time.

- Each family with a Sacramental candidate receives a **Family Formation** workbook containing a weekly 15 minute Home Lesson.
- It is during the fall semester that students prepare to receive their First Reconciliation and, after receiving that Sacrament, they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion in the spring.
- In addition, our Sacramental preparation program includes a parent lecture and a morning retreat for both of these sacraments.

I am a single parent / my spouse is not Catholic. Will this work for me?

- Absolutely! All parents are given the graces necessary to pass on their faith and to lead their children to our Heavenly Father.
- The clear, simple explanations of the Faith as presented in the **Family Formation** lessons are a great way for a non-Catholic parent to learn about Catholicism and to have their questions answered.
- **Family Formation** works well in whatever the shape and size of your family!

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

- Each Home Lesson offers parents a great deal of flexibility and a variety of activities. This allows parents, who are the best judges of their child’s needs, skills and attention span, to tailor lessons for their family.
- We encourage parents to challenge, but not overwhelm their children. With younger children it is recommended that you approach topics at the most basic level as they will be covered again the next time through the 3-year cycle.
- While designed primarily for use with students in K—5, many families bring all their children together (including preschool & high school).

From a parent's perspective:

When I was a kid I went to Catholic elementary school and attended the weekly religious lessons through middle and high school. From my own perspective, I find Family Formation much more rewarding and effective. I personally have learned things about the faith teaching my children the weekly lessons that I am quite sure we never covered in Catholic school in the 1980's, or in the weekly religious format.

I like that religious education is a family affair and not a drop off activity. Also, as a parent I can tell that the information is “sinking in.” My older son still remembers memory verses from kindergarten, and my younger son has absorbed lesson content since he was three years old!

A family-based faith formation format may be more involved for families, but it has been worth the time and effort for our family. I recommend giving it a try!

— From Michele, *Family Formation* parent for seven years and mother of Catholic school student

Why Family Formation!

- ▲ Our Catholic faith is brought to life within the family
- ▲ A program that supports and promotes parents as the primary educators of their children in the Catholic Faith
- ▲ Assists parents in the promises they made at their child's baptism
- ▲ Is written by parents for use in families
- ▲ Monthly adult catechesis sessions teaches parents to have the Catholic "know-how" to share the beauty of the Catholic faith with their children
- ▲ Materials are engaging, down-to-earth and easy to understand
- ▲ Solid Catholic teaching is transmitted through games, quizzes, stories and music
- ▲ Driven by Sacred Scripture and is faithful to the teaching of the Church
- ▲ Follows the three-year liturgical cycle
- ▲ Strong families is good for society and for the Church

WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO WALK WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN FAITH!

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Family Formation K-5 Grade Families

Saint John Neumann
Catholic Church

Invites you to be part of this exciting
year of faith in our parish family!

Let's become saints together.



"Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith."

- Pope Francis, 2015,
From Apostolic Journey to the USA

AN EXCITING NEW APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION!

Transforming the world one family at a time.

WHAT IS FAMILY FORMATION?

The mission of **Family Formation** is to help parents respond to the Church's call to be **"the first and foremost educators of their children."** **Family Formation** assists parishes to aid families as they grow in their love and knowledge of the Catholic faith. **Gravissimum Educationis*, 3

Family Formation is an engaging tried and true kindergarten through fifth grade Catholic family catechesis program. Based on the principal that **"Parents are the primary educators in the faith"** (General Directory for Catechesis, 255).

Family Formation has proven to be a solution to catechizing the whole family. After a monthly gathering where parents receive adult training and children are in grade-level classes, **Family Formation** is brought home, to the *domestic church*, with parents teaching their children the beauty of the Faith. **Family Formation** technically revolves around a weekly family gathering and home lesson, but families soon realize that this shared learning experience spills over into their everyday life.

WHAT IS CATECHESIS?

The *General Directory for Catechesis* defines "catechesis as nothing other than the process of transmitting the Gospel, as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it and communicates it in many ways" (General Directory for Catechesis, 105).

THE CAPACITY OF THE FAMILY AND PARENT AS EDUCATORS:

"Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principle educators. [*Gravissimum Educationis* (Declaration on Christian Education), 3 – Vatican II, Paul VI, 1965]

2017 - 2018 Family Formation Parish Gatherings

WEDNESDAY TRACK	SUNDAY TRACK
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm OR 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	11:15 am - 12:15 pm Following 10 am Mass
<i>Kickoff Event!</i> September 27, 2017	<i>Kickoff Event!</i> September 24, 2017
October 4, 2017	October 1, 2017
November 8, 2017	November 5, 2017
December 6, 2017	December 3, 2017
January 10, 2018	January 7, 2018
February 7, 2018	February 11, 2018
March 14, 2018	March 4, 2018
April 11, 2018	April 8, 2018
May 2, 2018	May 6, 2018

ONLINE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPT 5
HTTP://REGISTER.SJN.ORG
Family Formation Fee: \$100/child; \$300 max

"The family is a kind of school of deeper humanity..."

Gaudium et Spes, 52: Vatican II)