

Supplemental Faith Formation Options: Please consider these in addition to one of the Core Faith Formation Programs

Children and Youth

Family Life Curriculum

This option, a faith-rooted, values-based presentation of human sexuality, is offered for children in Kindergarten thru Grade 8. It focuses on moral issues related to family life, human relationships, and Christian responsibility. Age-appropriate content is offered based on key themes of Catholic education in relationships and family life. Offered on designated Sunday mornings in fall & winter for K thru Grade 8, or as a one day retreat in the fall for Grades 6-8. Watch for information in the bulletin or call parish office.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Each year Saint Katharine Drexel offers a week-long Vacation Bible School camp during the last full week of June. VBS is for children entering kindergarten to children completing fourth grade. VBS is a fun and spiritual adventure that includes games, music, crafts, and drama.

Youth Ministries

Our Middle School and High School Youth Ministries offer opportunities for our young people to live their faith, form friendships, and engage in community service. See the bulletin and youth ministry website for information about ongoing and upcoming events.

Additional Faith Formation Options for Adults

Why Catholic?

Why Catholic is offered as a 12 session course for adults desiring to connect with their Catholic beliefs in a more systematic way. Why Catholic provides basic theological grounding in the core beliefs of our faith. This option provides adults an opportunity to renew or strengthen their identity as Catholics, to feel more secure articulating their faith when people question them about their Catholic beliefs and the Church's teachings, and to feel more prepared in passing along their faith to children. Offered on-site and at Homewood. Watch for information in the bulletin or call parish office.

Café Catholic

Designed specifically for our young adults in their 20s and 30s, Café Catholic is an opportunity to learn about and discuss our faith in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. Held at a coffee shop, you are invited to sip your beverage of choice while listening to a brief presentation on the topic for the evening before being invited to share your own thoughts and experiences. This is a great way to meet other young adults in the parish and to continue your journey of faith.

Contemplative Prayer Group

The Contemplative Prayer Group meets each Wednesday at 7pm in the Chapel. This group provides an opportunity for people to slow down and make room in their busy lives for contemplative prayer. Thomas Keating, a Trappist teacher, wrote that contemplative prayer is the development of your relationship with Christ to the point of communing beyond words, thoughts, or feelings. During the hour long meeting we have two periods of quiet, as well as a brief sharing about the experience. All contemplatives at all times are beginners, so if you are new to contemplation you are most welcome.

Bensalem Small Faith

Communities

This option, for adults, is a regular gathering of groups of six to ten people, enabling participants to reflect on the Word of God, on their faith, and on their call to holiness and Christian discipline in their daily lives. This is a great way to connect on a more personal level with other parishioners. Groups typically meet in homes twice a month. Requests for groups based on language and/or ethnicity will be happily accommodated.

Saint Katharine Drexel Parish pledges to be a Eucharist-centered, welcoming community, forming loving disciples, giving selflessly in realization of the Kingdom of God.

Core Faith Formation Programs

Together Growing in Faith (T.G.I.F.)

This whole community approach to religious education is available to every parish household. **T.G.I.F.** meets on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM with an optional shared meal, followed at 6pm by prayer, and faith formation sessions for all ages. Adults attend group presentations on various faith topics or participate in Little Rock Scripture Study (described inside this brochure), while children & youth attend their grade-respective classes (pre-K through grade 12). Nursery care is available for infants & toddlers. Each evening concludes at 7:30 PM. A parent/ guardian must accompany children to this program.

Dates: 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6, 12/13, 1/10, 1/24, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/2

Generations of Faith

Generations of Faith is available to households looking for intergenerational catechesis, that builds not only faith knowledge, but also community and meaningful relationships. This program draws on the wisdom of all participants regardless of age. Participants stay together for sessions that include, prayer, music, catechetical themes, and learning activities. Take home information is provided to integrate learning into daily life, promoting life long growth in faith. **Program sessions are held on Sundays from 12:30– 2:00 PM.** Households with children need to have at least one parent/guardian at each session.

Dates: 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6, 12/13, 1/10, 1/24, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/2

Family Intergenerational

Religious Education (F.I.R.E.)

This program offers a unique opportunity to grow in faith as a community. **F.I.R.E.** is open to every household in the parish community. A typical F.I.R.E. group consists of five to seven households with adult participants taking turns leading sessions. Typical sessions run from 1-1/2 to 2 hours in length. The curriculum is grounded in scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The curriculum is intergenerational; younger and older participants learn from one another. This program addresses the Faith Formation needs of both adults and children. Requests for groups based on language and/or ethnicity are happily accommodated.

Home Study

This option supports the belief that parents / guardians are the primary formers in faith of their children. The home study option allows parents / guardians to work at their own pace with their child throughout the year. An age appropriate textbook will be provided for each child, along with the At Home Family Guide that helps parent/ guardians in teaching multiple children of different ages within the same household. Households are provided with a brief training session and ongoing support which includes a parent/guardian meeting in the fall for material distribution and training, as well as additional opportunities for community connection and student accountability.

Welcome to Faith Formation 09-10!

Thank you for your interest in Faith Formation for the 2009-2010 academic year. It is of great importance for both children and adults alike to continue to grow in the faith that we share. With this understanding in mind we invite all parishioners, both children and adults throughout the life cycle, to commit to ongoing faith formation. You will find in this brochure a description of the programs that will be offered by Saint Katharine Drexel Parish this year. Please take some time to read through the information here and choose the Core Faith Formation Program that best fits with your individual or household needs. We are also offering Supplemental Formation options, and we hope that you will take advantage of these in addition to our Core Faith Formation Programs.

Faith Formation Programs 2009-2010



Saint Katharine Drexel

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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