

St. Mary Parish Faith Formation Handbook for Students & Families

Mission Statement

St. Mary Parish, Monroe, Michigan, is a Catholic Community of Faith, rooted in Christ Jesus and in the history of our city and the Archdiocese of Detroit. As a parish we strive to deepen our relationship with God through our celebration of the Word and Eucharist, and ongoing education formation.

We understand our call to be a welcoming people extending loving service to young and old, within our Parish Community and beyond, always with concern for the less fortunate, while conveying God's message of love to all.

Dear Parents:

In the whole Christian community the family is a place where faith takes root and grows. Parents are the primary educators in the faith. As parents you have the unique privilege of transmitting the Gospel by rooting it in the context of your lived witness of faith. The Church has always acknowledged that faith is caught, not taught. Your example of faith is the most important catechesis your child will ever have: Sitting alongside of you as you listen to God's Word on Sunday, walking with you as you come forward to receive the Eucharist, leaving with you and witnessing your service of Christ in others during the week.

The formation your child receives through parish catechesis is no substitute for the example of lived faith you give. The parish is a larger family; composed of families like your own, where our prayer, communal life, and service support and affirm the example you give. Your child learns first from you, and then gradually in the Church, what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

I thank you for taking this responsibility seriously and for participating in the catechesis offered for your child. I urge you to make sure that catechesis is rooted in a life that is centered on the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. Please know that I am here to support you in any way possible. I ask for your prayers and support as well, as we grow in faith together.

In Christ,

Rev Marc A. Gawronski

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St. Mary Faith Formation Goals

To grow in relationship with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

To become familiar with the liturgy and both formal and informal prayer.

To live God's command to love your neighbor as yourself by participating in Christian outreach opportunities offered by St. Mary Parish.

To foster Christian virtues and encourage their practice in everyday life.

To instill in each child a reverence for the sacraments and other symbols of our faith.

To understand the role that the saints have played in the rich history of the Catholic Church.

To develop a sense of belonging within a Catholic community.

To gain an appreciation for the plan of salvation as lived and taught by Jesus.

To instill knowledge, understanding and love of the Bible and the teachings of the Church.

Faith Formation Personnel

Pastor E-mail	Father Marc Gawronski Mgawron@aol.com	241-1644
Director Faith Formation E-mail	Lorie Bronson lorieb@stmarymonroe.org	241-6097
Secretary E-mail	Karin Stewart karins@stmarymonroe.org	241-6097
Fax		241-3077

Faith Formation Office Hours

Sunday	8:00am - 12:30pm
Monday	9:00am – 4:00pm
Tuesday	9:00am – 4:00pm
Wednesday	9:00am – 4:00pm
Thursday	9:00am – 4:00pm

The director is available to meet with parents at these times. If these times are not convenient, an alternate meeting time can be arranged. Please call the office (241-6097) to schedule an appointment.

Catechists

Grade 1 Sunday	Sharon Mason, Paula Rose
Grade 2 Sunday	Barbara Griffith
Grade 2 Sunday B	Sharon Flowers
Grade 3 Sunday	Alicia Marting
Grade 4 Sunday	Sue Applin
Grade 5 Sunday	Paula Owens & Callistia Pipis
Grade 6 Sunday	Jean Kull, Shanda Morrow
Grade 7 Sunday	Tracy & Crysti Esper
Grade 8 Sunday Jackson	Rick Pietraniec, Mike Hoydic, Cliff

Policies

Attendance

Religious formation is vital for a child's properly developed faith. Therefore, parents are encouraged to enroll their child every year in the St. Mary Faith Formation program.

Regular weekly attendance at faith formation classes is an important factor in deepening a child's understanding of God. Through prayer, the study of Scripture and Church teachings, service to others and the lived example of Christian role models, a child comes to a deeper understanding of the Christian community.

When a student is unable to attend class due to an illness or another reason, please call the office 241-6097 prior to class. A written note explaining the nature of the absence must be presented to your child's teacher when returning to class.

Seven unexcused absences will result in repeating the grade. An unexcused absence is defined as the failure to communicate an absence prior to class.

Communication

On the first Sunday of each month pertinent information is sent home with the oldest child. Your signature on the white envelope acknowledges your receipt of the materials. Please return the signed envelope with your child the following week.

It is your responsibility to notify the office of any change of address, phone numbers or pertinent information about your child throughout the year

For current news about the program, be watchful for the faith formation column entitled, **"*IN*FORMATION*** located in the Sunday St. Mary Chronicle.

You are encouraged to share your comments and suggestions through written correspondence, phone conversations or email (lorieb@stmarymonroe.org).

The Office of Faith Formation is located in the breezeway between the school buildings.

Cancellation of Faith Formation classes

- If you have any questions about cancellation, please call 241-6097 before bringing your child to class.

- In a weather emergency please listen to WTWR FM 98.3 or Monroe Cable television station for closing updates.

Dress Code

Modest, appropriate dress is expected of each student when coming to class and church celebrations. Inappropriate dress includes:

- hats, short shorts, very short skirts
- t-shirts with objectionable images or words
- spandex clothing
- bare midriff or low-cut clothing
- muscle shirts
- barefeet

Expectations

Parents:

1. Ensure that your child attends class regularly and arrives on time.
2. Ensure that your child comes to class prepared (with textbook and homework)
3. Communicate to teacher and director any special needs or circumstances that may affect your child within the classroom.
4. Be an active part of your child's learning at home. If you are able, assist in the classroom with special projects at the request of the catechist or director
5. Attend Mass with your child each weekend/holy days of obligation.
6. Pray with your child.
7. Show interest in your child's weekly lessons, discussing the subject material with your child and helping them to apply it to their daily lives.
8. Participate in all parent and sacramental preparation meetings and activities.

Students:

1. Behave in a Christian manner at all times, showing respect and being cooperative with adults and other students.
2. Actively participate in activities and classroom discussions.
3. Attend class regularly and complete any assignments and homework.
4. Bring your textbook to class each week.
5. Take care of personal needs *before* coming to class. (bathroom, eating)
6. Code of Conduct:

- a. Gather in Parish Life Center at 11:00am. Sit in the section designated for your class.
- b. Listen and follow instructions and directions of the catechist.
- c. Treat adults and fellow students with respect.
- d. Respect the property of the building, classroom and materials, leaving the classroom in good order when dismissed.
- e. No child is allowed to bring personal belongings to class such as: radios, CD players, sports equipment or headphones. All cell phones must be turned off.
- f. No eating of food or gum chewing.

Disciplinary Action

The catechist teaches and models Christian behavior. His/her job is not that of a disciplinarian. All incidents of serious misconduct will be documented and kept on file in the faith formation office. Parents/guardians will be contacted if there are recurring disruptions or serious infractions of expected behavior. Parents/guardians will be expected to assist the catechist/director of faith formation in assuring the proper conduct of their child.

Possession or use of alcohol, illegal drugs, possession of weapons, fighting, sexual harassment*, smoking, vandalism and verbal and/or physical threats will not be tolerated. Such severe breaches of conduct will result in immediate notification of parents/guardian (and police if necessary) and immediate suspension from the program. A conference with the parents, student, pastor, and faith formation director will be required before re-admittance.

*Sexual harassment may be defined as unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that would be offensive to a reasonable person. Such behavior includes but is not limited to: sexual propositions, off-color jokes, inappropriate physical contact, innuendoes, sexual offers, looks, or gestures.

Arrival

- Gather in the Parish Life Center at 11:00am. Sit in the designated section for your class.
- Parents are welcome to stay with students for song and prayer.
- Students will proceed to the appropriate classroom with the catechist for class.
- Late arrivals are discouraged as they are disruptive to the class.

Dismissal

- Parents must wait for their child in the breezeway hall located between the school buildings.
- Students will be dismissed from the classroom at 12:15pm.
- Early dismissals are discouraged, as they are disruptive to the class. If the student must leave prior to 12:15pm a written, signed note (stating reason,

time, date and catechist's name) from the parent/guardian must be presented to the faith formation office in advance. No child will be dismissed directly from the classroom. Both child and parent need to come to the office of Faith Formation for early dismissal.

- A written note from the parent must be presented to the office if someone other than the parent will be picking up your child before class is dismissed. This designated person must come first to the office before accompanying your child out of the building.

Medical Needs

Health concerns should be brought to the attention of the Director during registration. If your child is diagnosed with a medical condition after registration, please inform the Director and catechist as soon as possible.

Please advise of any learning differences relevant to your child.

It is the policy of St. Mary Faith Formation program not to administer any medication to students.

Child Abuse

Pursuant to state law, we are required to report suspected child abuse, and we will also follow Diocesan policy on such matter.

Staff and catechists are aware and have read the personal conduct policies of the Diocese.

PRAYERS

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Blessing Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord and these Your gifts, which we are about to receive from Your bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace After Meals

We give You thanks for all Your gifts, almighty God who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

The Apostles Creed I believe in God, the Father almighty; Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Act of Contrition

Dear God, I am sorry for all my sins. I am sorry for the bad things I have done and the good things I have failed to do. I will try to do better. Help me to show Your love. Amen.

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall not have strange gods before Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry.

Give drink to the thirsty.

Clothe the naked.

for those

Shelter the homeless.

Visit the sick

are suffering.

Visit the imprisoned.

Bury the dead.

and live by God's law.

not sure what to do.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

Forgive people who hurt us.

Be patient with others.

Pray for people who are living and

who have died.

Comfort people who are sad and

Help people understand and learn.

Help people who sin understand

Give good advice to those who are

Faith Formation Registration

for
2008-2009

Class Times

Sunday - 9:30 am - 10:30 am (3, 4 & 5 year olds)
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Sunday - 11am – 12:15pm (grades 1 – 8)

Cost before July 1

If registration form is returned with payment **before July 1**
\$30.00 per child (3, 4 & 5 year olds)- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
\$70.00 for one child (grades 1 - 8)
\$125.00 for two children or more (grades 1 – 8)

Cost after July 1

If registration form is returned with payment **after July 1**
\$35.00 per child (3, 4 & 5 year olds) – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
\$75.00 for one child (grades 1 - 8)
\$130.00 for two children (grades 1 - 8)

Sacramental Preparation Fee

Grade 8 - \$25.00

Grade 2 - \$25.00

No child will be denied for financial reasons.

**If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please call Lorie Bronson,
Director of Faith Formation at 241-6097.**

Procedure

Please complete the registration form and return it in one of the following ways:

1. Postal mail (127 North Monroe Street, Monroe, MI 48162)
2. By placing your registration in the Sunday collection basket
3. Taking it to the rectory office or the Office of Faith Formation

Make checks payable to St. Mary Church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Office of Faith Formation (241-6097) or email me at lorieb@stmarymonroe.org.

Lorie Bronson

Director of Faith Formation

Curriculum

Celebrating the Lectionary (no text is used)

Used in Grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, Celebrating the Lectionary follows the Church 's lectionary readings and the liturgical year. Each session, the CTL process focuses on one or two Lectionary readings from the Sunday celebration of the Mass. The focus reading is often the Gospel.

The primary level, *Pray and Celebrate*, (ages six, seven and eight) looks at the Scripture for doctrinal foundations for the Church's teaching about praying and celebrating God's love in the sacraments. These sessions are designed for children who are beginning to read and whose manipulative skills are developed.

The intermediate level, *Righteous Living*, (ages nine, ten and eleven) explores how the Scriptures teach us to live. The doctrinal focus is on Church teaching about morality, decision-making, and what our faith says about how to treat others. These sessions are designed for groups who have some reading proficiency and ability to work in groups.

Covenant People designed for youth (ages twelve, thirteen and fourteen) explores doctrinal questions about what it means to be the people of God. The doctrine provides links to the history of the Church. A group-building component helps these young members develop a sense of belonging.

Each week children in grades 3-8 will come home with a tool designed to encourage reflection on the Scripture that will be proclaimed at Mass the following Sunday. These papers are entitled "**Bible Adventures.**" The time spent with your child reading the Word of God provides a strong foundation for living life.

Faith First Legacy Edition - our text, used in grades 4, 5, and 6

Published by: RCL; Resources for Christian Living

Every *Faith First* lesson incorporates a simple three-step process to teach the chapter content:

Engage: Children come with varying degrees of prior knowledge about and experience of the chapter focus. Every chapter begins with a simple questioning strategy through which the children share what they know about the chapter topic and where it may have touched their human experience.

Teach and Apply: As we address each of the three lesson concepts that support the chapter focus, Faith First offers a variety of teaching strategies to make the concepts interesting and understandable. After the concept has been presented, an activity helps the young people to express their understanding and begin to apply it to life.

Connect: After the three lesson concepts have been present, Faith First shows the children how the concepts have been incorporated into the Church's life. Then the children are challenged to express what difference the concepts will make in their own lives.

Generations of Faith

Passing on the Christian faith from generation to generation is at the heart of the life and work of the church. This task requires much more than passing on biblical and doctrinal information. The goal of lifelong faith formation is to enable a seamless journey of learning and passing on faith to every infant, child, youth, young adult, adult and elder in our parish and in our homes. Each one of us has something valuable to share. Each one of us can learn from others. *Generations of Faith* seeks to develop a faith in Jesus Christ that identifies him or her as a child of God in every age, stage and transition of life. To accomplish this task a vision and mission of creating a church-home partnership and a cross-generational culture that forms disciples is embraced.

Each event prepares us to celebrate a feast or event in the life of the Church.

This year's *Generations of Faith* events are:

September 21, 2008 – The St. Vincent de Paul Experience

November 9, 2008 – The Four Calls of Vocation

January 18, 2009 – St. Paul: A Catholic Apostle

April 19, 2009 – Living as Easter People – New Life in Christ

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – Pre-School and Primary Grades

St. Mary Parish is blessed to have a Level I Atrium – a space prepared for children in which every object is a help to knowing God. It is a place of simplicity and order, prayer and work and community, where children come into contact with Scripture, the liturgy of the church as well as sacred history. It is in this space that a way of religious formation for children known as the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* unfolds and children respond to God's overture of love.

This approach has a Montessori base and fosters an atmosphere of reverence and silence. Everything in the atrium is intended to be appropriate to the ages and sizes of the children who gather there.

Sr. Nancy Ayotte, IHM guides pre-school children during the 9:30am Mass each Sunday and Mrs. Carolyn Morrin guides the session on Saturdays from 10:00am – 11:30am.

Catechists in grades 1 and 2 utilize the atrium as well during the Sunday sessions.

Sacraments

First Reconciliation - published by RCL

Reconciliation: We are your people, the sheep of your flock.

Requirement for Reconciliation: Proof of
Baptism

First Eucharist - published by RCL

Eucharist: Do this in memory of me.

Requirement for Eucharist: Proof of Baptism

Confirmation - published by RCL

Confirmation: Filled with the Holy Spirit, they proclaimed the Lord Jesus.

Requirement for Confirmation: Proof of Baptism

St. Mary Parish Community celebrates the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in the second grade and the sacrament of Confirmation in the eighth grade.

Second grade students, along with their parents attend four sessions during the fall months to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and four sessions in the winter and spring in preparation of First Eucharist.

Eighth grade students, along with their parents and sponsors prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation through monthly gatherings on Sundays.

Because of the importance of the sacramental programs, children and parents must attend classes regularly. Please see calendar on page 5 for these dates.

Students are required to be enrolled in St. Mary program or another parish program at least one year prior to the year they are to receive the sacrament. The Director must approve alternative programs. If a child is transferring from another program, a letter of documentation must be presented at the time of registration.

[] Check here if address has changed

[] Check here if phone number has changed

**St. Mary
Faith Formation Registration
127 N. Monroe St., Monroe, MI 48162
(734) 241-6097**

Family Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ - _____ Family email: _____

To whom and with what title should mail be addressed? _____

Address Number _____ Street _____ City/State/Zip _____

In case of emergency contact: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Father: _____ Religion: _____ Occupation: _____ Work Phone: _____

Mother: _____ Religion: _____ Occupation: _____ Work Phone: _____

Name of Parish where you are registered: _____ Envelope Number: _____

Child's Full Name (last name if different from family name)	Gender	Birth Date	Grade	School	Religion (Roman Catholic, Eastern Catholic, Orthodox, other)	Baptism Place/Date **baptism record must accompany the initial registration

Please specify any special needs such as medical/learning, etc.	Where did child(ren) participate in Faith For

Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 parents at home | <input type="checkbox"/> Dad has remarried |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother deceased | <input type="checkbox"/> Child(ren) with Dad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father deceased | <input type="checkbox"/> Child(ren) with adult other than parent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced/Separated | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mom has remarried | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child(ren) with Mom | |

Name and religion of step-par

Name and address if mail sho

For Office use only
Amount due: \$ _____ Amount Paid: \$ _____
Check #: _____ M.O.#: _____ Cash: \$ _____

Parent's Signature _____
Date _____

