

Saints JFX Youth Faith Formation 2020-21 Overview

We are pleased to announce our newly formed Saints JFX Youth Faith Formation Program. We have worked hard to merge the St. Joseph Religious Education program and the St. Francis Xavier PREP program to create one cohesive program for both church campuses. The safety of your children and the catechists is our top priority.

Recently, the Archdiocese released guidelines for religious education programs. After reviewing these guidelines with parish staff, we developed a format that combines virtual classes and monthly family car Masses in the St. Joseph School parking lot. The fusion of the online classes and large group monthly Mass gatherings will incorporate prayer, catechesis, and service to continue building a community of discipleship in Wilmette.

We are working hard to keep our program creative, meaningful, and content rich. Our approach is designed to help the children of our parish continue to grow spiritually while following the four pillars of the Catholic Catechism: **Creed, Prayer, Sacraments and Morality**. The most important part of this education is making sure they understand how much God loves them – and all of us – and that the true path to happiness is to follow God’s simple “law” to “love one another as I have loved you.”

To register for the Saints JFX Youth Faith Formation Program, please use the online registration form on our website.

We realize that many of our families are attending the 10:30 am car Mass (in the St. Joseph School parking lot) and it is so exciting to see you there! If you have not joined us yet, please plan to attend the car Mass or one of our church Masses. Beginning in September, we added a weekly 5:00 pm Saturday Mass, which means we will have five opportunities for celebrating Mass. We also will have a separate **‘Stay in your car’ Mass once a month on a Sunday at 4pm (think drive-in)**. This is only for Religious Education families and will be located in the St. Joseph School parking lot.

Classes are scheduled to begin the first Sunday of October. You will find a calendar of dates of scheduled classes please see the website YFF calendar tab – click to see PDF document. While we are beginning with virtual classes, our goal is to have the children back in the classroom again when the CDC and Archdiocese determine this is safe. Parents of children in 2nd and 8th grades will receive additional information about parent meetings and sacramental preparation.

As always, we are most grateful for your involvement in your child’s religious instruction. Home and parents are where children first learn about God’s love. As we move through these uncertain times, we continue to pray for our families and ask for your prayers for us and our parish community.

Questions? Please reach out to our Religious Education directors, Dana McKenna (dmckenna@ssjfx.org) and Dani Froelich (dfroelich@ssjfx.org).