

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is Our Parish making this big change in religious education?** The old model of CCD class programs is not necessarily the best way to serve families. Research shows more than half of those raised as Catholics leave the church. This happens for many reasons, but any past success in religious education programs depended on families regularly participating in Sunday Mass and actively practicing their faith at home on a daily basis, but this is no longer true. Our Catholic Faith is so much more than an hour on Sunday mornings; it is a daily way of life. *A Family of Faith* fosters both the education necessary to help us understand the faith more fully and the materials to help us carry on the conversations of faith in our homes in a way that is livable and sustainable.
- **How does *A Family of Faith* work?** An *adult session* (45-60 minutes) is held near the beginning of each month to help parents deepen their own knowledge of the Catholic faith. This program is most effective when both parents are able to attend. There are two *at-home family lessons* (approximately 30 minutes each) to be completed per month, with additional activities to help make the Catholic faith a part of your family's daily life. There is also a monthly *family night* (60 minutes) near the end of each month, which is for the entire family, to build community and ensure accountability.
- **Where is this all happening? What's the schedule? We're a busy family!** There's a lot more flexibility in *A Family of Faith* than in classroom religious education programs. Parents attend the adult sessions in the church with Father Bill at 6:30 PM one Wednesday per month. Family night activities vary and may meet in the church or in Garvin Hall at 6:30 PM one Wednesday per month. You may choose when to do the two monthly lessons—at home, on your family's schedule, and at your child's level. These lessons are not based on the grade level of your child. The home lessons are designed to be a part of family life and conversation with the whole family. The program runs from September through May. A calendar for the year will be provided at the first parent session and may be accessed anytime on the parish website.
- **Who is this for? What if we don't have children or our kids are grown?** The at-home lessons are geared for kids in grades K-8, but all parishioners are most welcome to get involved. Teens can help teach younger siblings, or assist with providing childcare for younger families during adult sessions. All adults, and even older teens, can come and benefit from the teaching during the adult sessions.
- **What about First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation?** Specific preparation to receive these Sacraments is something separate from *A Family of Faith*, and additional information will be provided. However, families who have children preparing to receive one of these Sacraments this year will also participate in *A Family of Faith*.
- **What is the cost for registration? What is this money used for?** One year of *A Family of Faith* costs \$100 per household. This is used to purchase Leader Guides, Parent Guides, Student Activity Books, craft materials, snacks/meals for family night activities, postage and miscellaneous office supplies. We believe this small investment by each family will make a big return, while also encouraging a family's ongoing involvement.