

Welcome to Our Lady of the Lake Faith Formation! The Faith Formation staff at Our Lady of the Lake is excited to offer this active, engaging way for families to grow in their faith individually, and as a domestic church.

Families will explore their faith through eight Christ centered, family oriented, faith themes, one for each month September-April. Families will gather for a “Family Faith Session” in their home, using information provided by the faith formation staff at Our Lady of the Lake. These sessions will introduce the theme and incorporate prayer, Catholic rituals and tradition, scripture, and guide families on how to live their faith through daily actions. Family members will engage in social, service, and faith practice activities listed on the Explore Four chart to help make the Catholic themes come alive! Mini lessons for each registered child or youth will also be provided to help individuals explore faith on their own. Students can explore the month’s theme using age appropriate online resources (games, scripture work, Saints, etc), view videos, and hopefully participate in some ZOOM gatherings for families and age specific groups. As it is possible, we will host Explore Four events at the parish to build community.

The Explore Four activities will change each month to fit the theme and encourage families to live their faith in many different ways – both at home, and in the parish community (as possible). Those receiving sacraments in spring 2021 will have additional sacrament focused activities each month to help prepare them for the sacrament(s) they will receive. Sacramental students will gather with a parent for two sacramental workshops during the year (as possible).

Registration information

Faith Formation cost:

- Early Childhood Faith Formation \$80 per family
- Children's Faith Formation \$100 per student
- Youth Ministry \$100 student

Expectations for students/families:

- Each family will receive access to a parent portal, and each registered student will receive student portal access to CatholicBrain.com. Activities completed on Catholic Brain will be monitored by faith formation staff to track student progress. Early Childhood families are encouraged to explore their faith on CatholicBrain.com, but not required.
- There will be a theme for each month (September-April) and in the parent portal there will be a “Family Faith Session” that will contain scripture, prayer, general concepts and vocabulary associated with the theme, and an Explore Four chart containing social, service, and faith practice activities inviting family members to live that month’s theme.
- Mini lessons will be provided each month that include scripture resources, videos links, games, Saint activities, coloring pages, etc. all focused on the theme for the month. Each child/youth will be responsible to choose two of the mini lessons offered in their portal and complete them that month (faith formation staff and catechists can view what lessons students complete, and when).
- Each registered child/youth will complete 2 Explore Four activities (choose from the three categories – social, service, & faith practice) with their family to accompany the 2 mini lessons for each theme. Families will complete a discussion/reflection form together, as a family, for each activity. All Explore Four forms and mini lessons should be completed and submitted by the last day of the assigned month. Early Childhood families are encouraged to explore their faith on CatholicBrain.com, but not required.

- We hope to have catechists/volunteers for each grade level that will schedule ZOOM sessions for the grade level (probably once a month). The ZOOM sessions will not be mandatory, but are highly encouraged!
- Sacramental students will have additional sacramental activities in their Catholic Brain portal to complete each month.
- We hope to have two onsite workshops during the year for Reconciliation/Eucharist for Children's Faith Formation, and Reconciliation/Confirmation for Confirmation preparation youth.

Registration expectations for parents/guardians:

- We plan to offer in-person parent orientations (if it is safe) at the end of August and a ZOOM option for those that are not ready or able to attend a gathering at the Church. Families will pick up resources at this time. For those registered families that do not attend, we will ask you to schedule a pick up time with ministry staff.
- In-person parent session (as soon as it is safe) at the beginning of each month to introduce parents to the month's theme, give them catechesis on an adult level, and offer supplies for various crafts/activities for registered children/youth. We will not offer craft/activity supplies every month for every grade level, it will vary per grade level and monthly theme.
- Those that attend the in-person parent session will receive the resources - we want to encourage you to join us! Families that are unable to attend due to health concerns may contact the Faith Formation Director to schedule a time to come by and pick up supplies.

At Parent Orientation each family will receive:

- One bag/knapsack that contains prayer space objects for their home. Those objects include liturgical colored cloths (green, red, purple, and white), a crucifix, a prayer cube, a bottle of holy water, and a flameless candle.
- An orientation packet containing the scope and sequence for the year, Catholic Brain portal information, Flocknote information, a calendar of scheduled events, and activity resources and Explore Four Chart for the first month's theme.
- Those families that have student(s) in grades 2-6, preparing for Reconciliation/Eucharist in Spring 2021, will receive sacramental preparation materials (including a Children's Bible).
- Those families that have student(s) in grades 7-11, in the first year Confirmation Preparation, will receive a Youth Bible.

NOTE: Registration for your children in all three ministries may be completed on one form. Payment is required at time of registration using a credit or debit card, or e-check. If you do not have access to a computer for registration, or have questions or concerns regarding payment, please contact:

Julie Aldridge- Early Childhood Ministries Director (birth – kindergarten) at jaldridge@ourladyrockwall.org

Martha Robison – Children's Faith Formation Administrative Assistant (grades 1-6) at

ffadmin@ourladyrockwall.org

Olga Gutierrez – Youth Ministry (grades 7-12) Administrative Assistant at youthadmin@ourladyrockwall.org