



September 8, 2021

Dear Parents,

We are so excited to welcome you to the St. Michael Parish 2021-2022 Faith Formation!

Learning the basics of the Catholic Faith and preparing to receive the sacraments are important moments not only in a child's life, but also in the life of the family. St. Michael Parish is here to support you in raising your children in the Catholic Faith. Through our ongoing Faith Formation opportunities, we seek to provide fun and engaging ways for families to learn together, building memories that will last a lifetime.

Enclosed you will find information on our two Faith Formation options: Winthrop Faith Formation and Home Family Faith Formation. Children can be prepared to receive the sacraments through either option. There is also information about some of our special events, along with a calendar and a registration form. And for your convenience, you may register at: <https://stmichaelmaine.org/register-for-faith-formation>.

We receive guidance from Bishop Robert Deeley and the Diocesan Office of Lifelong Faith Formation on protocols and procedures. Currently, we are planning for in-person Faith Formation with proper precautions in place. These include masks for everyone while indoors, social distancing between children and families, and cleaning procedures. These guidelines may change as the situation necessitates.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year full of fun, faith-filled activities. Be sure to mark your calendar for our kick-off event, ***The Doug and Dave Show*** on **Sunday, September 19th at 3pm at St. Augustine Church, Augusta**. You won't want to miss this high energy, family-friendly, faith-filled event that will set the tone for an exciting year!

We look forward to seeing you soon. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We can be reached at the Pastoral Center at 207-623-8823.

Sincerely,


Gina M. Czerwinski, M.Div.
Pastoral Life Coordinator


Sr. Carol Martin
Winthrop Coordinator


Sandra Parlato
Parish Catechetical Leader



2021-2022 FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Home Family Faith Formation

Meets once a month on a Sunday from 3-4:45pm at Sacred Heart Hall in Hallowell. Families gather for an opening prayer and then children go to their rooms for a session with their catechist while parents attend their own session. Families then gather back together for an activity and a closing prayer.

Sacramental Preparation

In the Diocese of Portland, there is a two-year process for baptized children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. Children will receive preparatory formation either through our Parish Faith Formation Program or through St. Michael School. See the Sacramental Preparation Brochure for full details.



Winthrop Faith Formation

Meets on Sundays from 9-10:45am in St. Francis Hall after the 8am Mass. Families gather after Mass for a snack and opening prayer. Then children go to their rooms for a session with their catechist. Parents are welcome to remain in the hall for faith sharing.

The Doug and Dave Show presents "Mass Confusion"

Doug Brummel and Dave Wilson bring the Mass alive through sketches, characterizations, and original music inspired by the Holy Spirit. Join us on Sunday, September 19th at 3 pm at St. Augustine Church as we kick-off our 2021-2022 Faith Formation Year!



Breakfast with the Saints

Join us on Sunday, October 31st after the 8am Mass at St. Francis Hall in Winthrop to celebrate our Catholic Saints with games, food, and fellowship. Learn about the Saints and win some awesome prizes!

Advent Family Retreat

Join us on Sunday, November 21st either at 9am at St. Francis Hall, Winthrop or at 3pm at Sacred Heart Hall, Hallowell to learn about the tradition of the Jesse Tree.



Lenten Family Retreat

Join us on Sunday, March 27th either at 9am at St. Francis Hall, Winthrop or at 3pm at Sacred Heart Hall, Hallowell as we together learn to "walk with Jesus" during the 40 days of Lent.

Vacation Bible School

Pre-K through 5th grade children are invited to join us for a week-long summer adventure on June 20-24, 2022 at St. Francis in Winthrop. Older children, teens, and adults are invited to assist with planning, set construction, costume design, leading stations, and clean-up.





2021-2022 FAITH FORMATION CURRICULUM

Pre-K/K

Stories of God's Love by RCL Benziger: The Scripture-based format of *Stories of God's Love* begins where every catechesis should begin—by touching children's hearts with the Gospel message. Young children will learn about God's love through developmentally appropriate Scripture stories and engaging stories of their own lives.

Year One Sacramental Preparation

Discover! Finding Faith in Life by St. Mary Press, Grade 1: Each child receives their own Discover! Kit, containing everything they need for their exciting faith journey. Children will dive into Bible stories in their own Catholic Children's Bible to encounter Jesus through the stories and people of scripture. Then, they get out of their seats for a built-in energetic learning activity that helps build a meaningful lesson. Next, they connect the Bible story and hand-on activity with Catholic doctrine through age-appropriate prayers, puzzles, and challenges in their Activity Book.

Year Two Sacramental Preparation

Go Seek Find: Discover God's Treasures by St. Mary Press: Through this unique program, children are led on an adventure of discovery as they explore the rich and beautiful significance of the sacraments in their lives. *Go Seek Find* will engage and inspire children, creating a spirit of excitement and joy around their journey toward encountering Jesus through the treasures that are the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Eucharist. Year Two Preparation also includes three family retreats.

Grades 3/4

Discover! Finding Faith in Life by St. Mary Press, Grade 3 or Grade 4: Each child receives their own Discover! Kit, containing everything they need for their exciting faith journey. Children will dive into Bible stories in their own Catholic Children's Bible to encounter Jesus through the stories and people of scripture. Then, they get out of their seats for a built-in energetic learning activity that helps build a meaningful lesson. Next, they connect the Bible story and hand-on activity with Catholic doctrine through age-appropriate prayers, puzzles, and challenges in their Activity Book. We will alternate the grade materials every year.

Grades 5/6

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Venture: Venture leads fourth to sixth grade youth in making moral choices and exploring and expanding their faith. Dramatizations, current events, and original stories link the Sunday Gospel to kids' own lives. Lives of saints (illustrated as comics) and imaginative activities demonstrate applications of the Gospel message.

Grades 7/8

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Visions: Visions emphasizes social justice, moral reasoning, and service for junior-high youth through current-interest articles, life-dilemma stories, and real Christian life examples. Discussion starters help young teens explore links between today's issues, the Sunday readings, and their own lives.

Parents are the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith, and we depend on their faith as the primary models and motivators of their children.

-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1212



Parents

Preparing to receive the sacraments can be a memorable and exciting time for children. They learn from the support and example of their families and are conscious of the care of the parish community for them. Parents, as co-creators with God, have the right and privilege to be the primary models of faith for their children. Home is where the Faith is developed and lived out. At Baptism, parents promise to raise their children in the Catholic faith and give them the Gospel message of Jesus, loving God and neighbor. Our parish provides events and resources to support parents/guardians in their important role. Together, as partners, families and parishes help our children grow in faith.

If your child has not yet been baptized, or if you would like to learn more about becoming Catholic, please contact the parish office at 207-623-8823.



Registration

To register your child for the Sacramental Preparation Process, please use our online registration form which is available at:

<https://stmichaelmaine.org/register-for-faith-formation>

There is a \$30 materials fee per child in Year Two to help offset costs. This fee is payable by check to St. Michael Parish or can be paid online using WeShare at: <https://stmichaelmaine.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/FaithFormation>

ST. MICHAEL
PARISH

Sacramental Preparation



Preparing Children for
the Sacraments of
Confirmation
and
First Eucharist

*Completing the Sacraments of Initiation marks the beginning of a new part of a child's lifelong journey of faith!
With ongoing formation, children and families will come to a deeper relationship with Christ through the working of the Holy Spirit.*



Pastoral Center
St. Michael Parish
24 Washington St. Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 623-8823
www.stmichaelmaine.org

The Sacraments

Through the sacraments, Jesus gives us ways to share in His life. In each of the sacraments, we receive God's life and God's help. The sacraments have a transforming effect on our lives as we encounter Jesus in a unique and intimate way. He desires this great intimacy out of pure love. Through the gift of grace freely given in the sacraments, we come to a deeper knowledge of the love of God and can become the holy people God wants us to be.

At **Baptism**, we become members of the Church and God's family. The Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist complete the Sacraments of Initiation. In the Diocese of Portland, these sacraments have been restored to the original order practiced by the early church: Confirmation before Eucharist.



Confirmation deepens and strengthens the grace of Baptism, forming us into disciples of Christ through the Holy Spirit. Confirmation leads us to the **Eucharist**, which is the heart of the entire Christian life. By receiving Christ's Body and Blood, we enter into a loving communion with Him. He invites us to return to him in the Eucharist as often as possible throughout our lives.

Two Year Preparation

In the Diocese of Portland, there is a two-year process for baptized children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Year One provides an initial formation in the foundations of the faith. The minimum age for a child registering in Year One is 6 years old. We also offer age-appropriate catechesis for children in upper elementary, middle, and high school who wish to prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation. In Year One, parents and children will attend two retreats.

Year Two prepares children to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist, which includes the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This process will provide children the time to learn and develop a relationship with God; understand and desire the sacraments; learn to pray; and be involved in the life of the Church. All children and parents will attend three retreats in Year Two in addition to the preparatory sessions and a final rehearsal.

Even if your child is enrolled in a Catholic School, they must also be enrolled in the Parish's Sacramental Preparation Process starting with Year One in order to complete the Sacraments of Initiation.

2021-2022 Overview

- Children who attend **St. Michael School** and are enrolled in our Sacramental Preparation Process will receive preparatory formation through their school religion classes. Those enrolled in Year Two will also attend three retreats.
- Children who attend our **Parish Faith Formation** will receive preparatory formation through the Winthrop or Home Family Programs.
- As the situation necessitates, the gathered sessions, retreats, and rehearsal may transition into online sessions via Zoom.

***Year One Schedule**

10/2/21 - Fall Retreat, 9am at Sacred Heart Hall, Hallowell

4/9/22 - Spring Retreat, 9am at Sacred Heart Hall, Hallowell

***Year Two Schedule**

12/4/21 - Confirmation Retreat, 9am at Sacred Heart Hall, Hallowell

2/5/22 - Reconciliation Retreat, 9am at Sacred Heart Hall, Hallowell

2/15/22 - Sacrament of Reconciliation, 6pm at St. Mary Church, Augusta

4/30/22 - Eucharist Retreat, 9am at Sacred Heart Hall, Hallowell

TBD - Sacrament Celebration Rehearsal
TBD - Confirmation & Eucharist Celebration

*Tentative dates as of 8/26/21



*2021-2022 Faith Formation Schedule At-A-Glance

Winthrop
9-10:45am
@St. Francis Hall

9/26/21
10/3/21
10/17/21
11/7/21
11/14/21
12/5/21
12/12/21
1/9/22
1/23/22
2/6/22
2/13/22
3/6/22
3/20/22
4/3/22
4/10/22
5/1/22
5/15/22
5/22/22

Home Family.
3-4:45pm
@Sacred Heart Hall

9/26/21
10/24/21
11/14/21
12/19/21
1/9/22
2/13/22
3/13/22
4/10/22
5/15/22

Two-Year Sacramental Preparation

Year One

10/2/21 - Fall Retreat, 9am @Sacred Heart Hall
4/9/22 - Spring Retreat, 9am @Sacred Heart Hall

Year Two

12/4/21 - Confirmation Retreat, 9am @Sacred Heart Hall
2/5/22 - Reconciliation Retreat, 9am @Sacred Heart Hall
2/15/22 - Reconciliation Service, 6pm @St. Mary Church
4/30/22 - Eucharist Retreat, 9am @Sacred Heart Hall
TBD - Sacrament Celebration Rehearsal
TBD - Confirmation/First Eucharist

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
6/20-24/2022 @St. Francis Hall

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

9/19/21 - The Doug and Dave Show, 3pm @St. Augustine Church
10/31/21 - Breakfast with the Saints, 9am @St. Francis Hall
11/21/21 - Advent Family Retreat, 9am @St. Francis Hall or 3pm @Sacred Heart Hall
3/27/22 - Lenten Family Retreat, 9am @St. Francis Hall or 3pm @Sacred Heart Hall

*Tentative dates as of 8/26/21

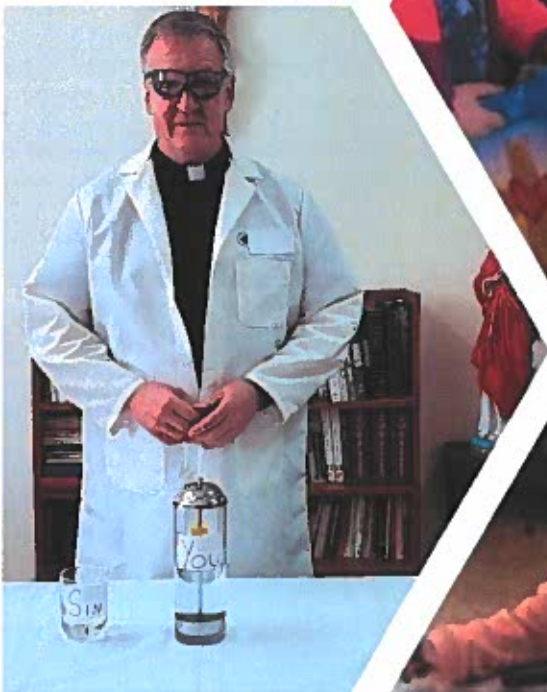
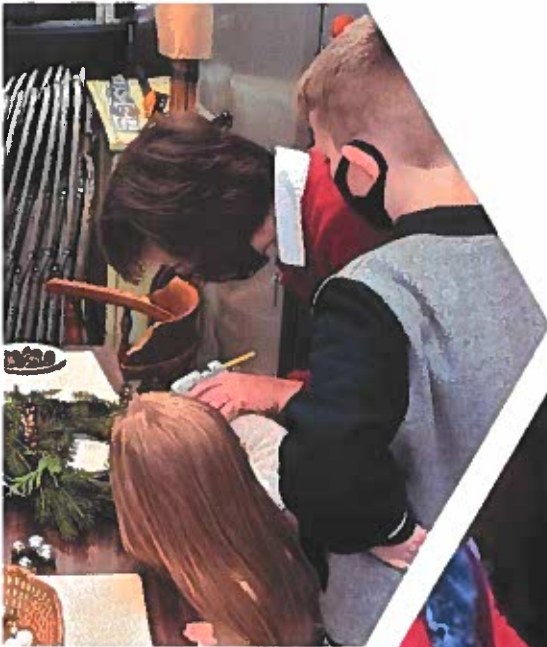
CALLED TO BE A CATECHIST?

"A CATECHIST IS A PERSON WHO FACILITATES THE PROCESS OF FAITH FORMATION. THIS IS DONE FIRST BY ECHOING THE WORD OF GOD IN HIS OR HER OWN LIFE, AND SECOND BY HELPING OTHERS TO DO SO... THROUGH YOUR WORK WITH ADULTS, FAMILIES, ADOLESCENTS, AND CHILDREN, YOU ARE PASSING ON A LIVED FAITH."

- JOE PAPROCKI, THE CATECHIST'S TOOLBOX

The primary goal of a catechist is to model God's love to others. As a result, the primary requisite of a catechist is a love for God and a love for others. A catechist designs and structures experiences for students that help them grow in their personal faith and spirituality and passes on to students a set of shared meanings and values that are Catholic and Christian. A catechist also initiates others into the faith community, into its life, its worship, symbols and practices. Is God calling you to help pass on the faith to the children, youth, and adults of St. Michal Parish?

**To learn more, please contact:
Gina Czerwinski at 623-8823 or
gina.czerwinski@portlanddiocese.org**



St. Michael Parish Faith Formation Registration Form 2021/2022

Parent/Guardian 1 First _____ Last _____

Parent/Guardian 2 First _____ Last _____

Primary Email _____

Best Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

Street Address _____ State ____ Zip _____

Emergency Contact First _____ Last _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

Child 1: First _____ Last _____ DOB _____

School Attending _____ Grade Entering ____ Age ____ Gender F / M

- My child was baptized at St. Michael Parish. ___ Yes ___ No, at another parish ___ Not yet, needs preparation
Church of Baptism/City/State _____
- My child has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has received the Sacrament of First Eucharist. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has the following food allergy or special needs _____

Faith Formation Level (circle one): Pre-K/K Year 1 Sac. Prep. Year 2 Sac. Prep. 3/4 5/6 7/8

FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

- Home Family:** Our family will gather for sessions once a month at Sacred Heart Hall in Hallowell and will complete lessons at home in addition to attending the seasonal gatherings and family retreats.
- Winthrop:** Our child (children) will gather for sessions after the Sunday 8am Mass at St. Francis Hall in Winthrop in addition to attending the seasonal gatherings and family retreats.
- Year One Sacramental Preparation:** My child attends St. Michael School and is enrolling in Year One of the Sacramental Preparation Process. We will attend the Year One gatherings and family retreats.
- Year Two Sacramental Preparation:** My child attends St. Michael School and is enrolling in Year Two of the Sacramental Preparation Process. We will attend the Year Two gatherings and family retreats.

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY WAIVER: I give permission for my child (children) listed on this form to be photographed and/or videoed by St. Michael Parish. Photos and/or videos may be used by St. Michael Parish. Children will never be identified by name. I agree ___ Yes ___ No Signature _____

MATERIALS FEES

- There is a \$30 materials fee per child enrolled in the Parish Faith Formation Program, with a family cap of \$100.
- There is an additional \$30 materials fee for each child enrolled in Year 2 of the Sacramental Preparation process.
- Fees can be paid online at <https://stmichaelmaine.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/FaithFormation>.
- Checks can be made out to: St. Michael Parish (*with notation, "faith formation"*).
- **Mail payment and form to:** St. Michael Parish, 24 Washington St., Augusta, ME 04330 Attn: Faith Formation.

Office Use				
_____ Child/Children Enrolled	\$ _____ Total Materials Fee Due	Paid by _____ WeShare _____	Check # _____	PDS _____

Child 2: First _____ Last _____ DOB _____

School Attending _____ Grade Entering _____ Age _____ Gender F / M

- My child was baptized at St. Michael Parish. ___ Yes ___ No, at another parish ___ Not yet, needs preparation Church of Baptism/City/State _____
- My child has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has received the Sacrament of First Eucharist. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has the following food allergy or special needs _____

Faith Formation Level (circle one): Pre-K/K Year 1 Sac. Prep. Year 2 Sac. Prep. 3/4 5/6 7/8

Child 3: First _____ Last _____ DOB _____

School Attending _____ Grade Entering _____ Age _____ Gender F / M

- My child was baptized at St. Michael Parish. ___ Yes ___ No, at another parish ___ Not yet, needs preparation Church of Baptism/City/State _____
- My child has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has received the Sacrament of First Eucharist. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has the following food allergy or special needs _____

Faith Formation Level (circle one): Pre-K/K Year 1 Sac. Prep. Year 2 Sac. Prep. 3/4 5/6 7/8

Child 4: First _____ Last _____ DOB _____

School Attending _____ Grade Entering _____ Age _____ Gender F / M

- My child was baptized at St. Michael Parish. ___ Yes ___ No, at another parish ___ Not yet, needs preparation Church of Baptism/City/State _____
- My child has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has received the Sacrament of First Eucharist. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has the following food allergy or special needs _____

Faith Formation Level (circle one): Pre-K/K Year 1 Sac. Prep. Year 2 Sac. Prep. 3/4 5/6 7/8

Child 5: First _____ Last _____ DOB _____

School Attending _____ Grade Entering _____ Age _____ Gender F / M

- My child was baptized at St. Michael Parish. ___ Yes ___ No, at another parish ___ Not yet, needs preparation Church of Baptism/City/State _____
- My child has received the Sacrament of Confirmation. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has received the Sacrament of First Eucharist. ___ Yes ___ No
- My child has the following food allergy or special needs _____

Faith Formation Level (circle one): Pre-K/K Year 1 Sac. Prep. Year 2 Sac. Prep. 3/4 5/6 7/8