



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH

CHURCHES OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

1 MUNN STREET · MONTCLAIR · NJ, 07042 | 973-744-5650 | MONTCLAIRCATHOLICS.ORG



Family Faith Formation Handbook 2021-2022 Grades 1-8

Welcome to Family Faith Formation!

This handbook was designed to provide your family with valuable information regarding our Family Faith Program for the 2021-2022 catechetical year for children entering Grades 1-8 in September. We respectfully request that you read this handbook to gain a fuller understanding and perspective of our program, its guidelines and expectations. We appreciate your commitment to and involvement in your child's faith formation and we look forward to an exciting year of faith formation for the young members of our parish!

Please mark your calendars. ***A Zoom information session for parents will be held on Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021 at 7:00 pm*** which will outline the goals of our program and answer your questions. Zoom invites will be sent to the emails entered in the online registration form.

If you have any questions or concerns prior to registration, please call the Family Faith Formation Coordinator, at 973-744-5650 or send an email to familyfaithadmin@montclaircatholics.org.

Who can register for the Family Faith Formation Program?

The Family Faith Formation Program is offered to families who are active and registered parishioners at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish. Active parishioners are those who participate in the sacramental life of the church, most especially the Sunday Eucharist. Active participation in parish life includes sharing our gifts of time (volunteering) and/or treasure (online *E-Giving* or the use of Envelopes).

If you are not a registered parishioner of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, you may call the Parish Office at 973-744-5650, for more information. The parishioner registration form may also be found at: <https://www.montclaircatholics.org/registration/>

Our Mission

St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish endeavors to provide a parish environment where families can experience God's Word (**WORD**), receive His grace in the celebration of the sacraments, especially the weekly celebration of the Eucharist as a parish family (**WORSHIP**), serve others



(MISSION) and build God's kingdom (COMMUNITY) in our families and communities by following Jesus' example.

These four components – WORD, WORSHIP, MISSION, COMMUNITY – make up the basic structure of our Family Faith Formation program. They are inspired by the famous story from Luke's Gospel, "The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus" (Lk 24:13-35). Two broken-hearted and disillusioned followers of Jesus depart from Jerusalem after Jesus' death and burial only to encounter the *risen* Jesus on the road home to Emmaus. The risen Jesus suddenly appears that first Easter Sunday, and accompanies them on their journey. They do not recognize him. As they walk along, Jesus interprets for them all that referred to him in the Old Testament and which now has been fulfilled in him (WORD).

When it is almost evening, the travelers invite Jesus to stay with them. And while he was with them at table, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them (WORSHIP). Only at that moment did they recognize Jesus; and with their recognition Jesus vanishes from their sight! The followers realize that their hearts were burning within them when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them. Instead of continuing their journey, they immediately return to Jerusalem to spread the good news (MISSION) of Jesus' resurrection to the eleven and those that were with them (COMMUNITY).

Importance of Mass Attendance (WORSHIP)

The mass is the central, communal and most beautiful act of worship of Almighty God. It is a precious treasure of our Church that has been part of its living tradition for almost 2000 years. Our 2021-2022 program is designed to be centered around the mass.

Attending Mass is essential to the formation of faith. It is our loving response to the God who has loved us first. We request that you attend weekly Sunday Mass with your children to honor, praise and thank God within the community of His Church, to listen to His Word, to witness and participate in the miracle of the Eucharist, and to show Jesus that we love Him and



need Him. Please see the parish website for the current Mass schedule at:

<https://www.montclaircatholics.org/>

2021-2022 Program Overview

For our 2021-2022 program, families will be required to attend a Family Faith Formation Mass, followed by a breakout session, *twice per month*. These teaching masses and breakout sessions will be held from 9:15 – 11:15 am on Sunday mornings, and scheduled roughly twice per month from September to April. *At least one parent or guardian is required to attend mass and the breakout session with their children.* The masses and sessions are structured with a specific theme and designed to correlate with the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies. The presider, or a guest-speaker, will focus on family-friendly communications supporting that theme. At the conclusion of mass (**WORSHIP**), families will gather in smaller breakout groups at a pre-determined location on the church campus. Here, they will participate in an activity that supports the message (**WORD**) taught that week. The focus is to develop **COMMUNITY**, while learning and participating in faith-based activities and service (**MISSION**).



Family Commitment

For our Family Faith Program to be successful, we do need full and active participation from parents/guardians and their children. Parents and children will work together to ensure:

- Regular Mass attendance
- Regular attendance at breakout sessions
- Showing up for mass and breakout sessions on time
- Open and read emails sent by the Family Faith Office
- Volunteering for at least two dates of our program. Dates are selected during the online registration process.
- Complete and hand-in any assignments and/or forms by their due dates

Attendance

Attendance will be taken and is expected to fulfill program requirements. Families that have excessive absences and/or have not handed in any missed assignments may be asked to repeat the program in order to advance to the next grade level.

Meeting Times & Location

The program meets from 9:15 – 11:15 am two Sundays per month. During this time, one parent or guardian will attend mass with their child in addition to a short breakout session after mass. Meeting dates are below:

Sept – 19, 26	Jan – 9, 23
Oct – 3, 31	Feb – 6, 27
Nov – 14, 21	Mar – 6, 13
Dec - 5, 12	April – 3



Schedule for First Eucharist Preparation (2nd Grade)

First Reconciliation – TBD

First Eucharist Rehearsal – May 5

First Eucharist – May 7 & 8

Sacrament Preparation – First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Children traditionally enroll in the Faith Formation Program in 1st grade. First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are generally done in 2nd grade. A child must be baptized and have attended and completed one full year of a faith formation or religious education program before beginning preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Enrollment in the sacrament preparation process may be delayed due to excessive absences and/or missed years of attendance.

Preparation for these sacraments will occur in addition to attendance of the Family Faith Formation masses. Your child will be assigned a catechist and preparation will occur during breakout session time *or if needed, additional time may be scheduled*. **Additionally, children will be given take-home materials that need to be completed with their parents as part of the sacrament preparation process.**



Family Faith Formation Registration

Registration Fees

1 Child - \$225

2 Children - \$275

3 or more Children - \$325

There is a \$25 discount for families that register by August 1, 2021.

There is a \$50 late fee for families that register after August 23, 2021.

No registrations will be accepted after September 3, 2021.

Documents

Parents/guardians must provide a copy of their child's sacramental records. ***If your child was baptized and/or received First Communion at Our Lady of Mount Carmel or Immaculate Conception Church, there is no need to supply records.*** Families transferring from another parish should also provide documentation stating their child's participation and attendance in their former parish's faith formation/religious education program.

Online Registration

Online registration will run from July 9, 2021 through September 3, 2021.

All families must be registered in the program in order to participate. The online registration form can be found at:

[2021-2022 Family Faith Registration \(ncsservices.org\)](https://www.ncsservices.org)

Full payment is expected at the time of registration and may be made with a credit/debit card. If you require an alternate payment method, special arrangements must be made.

Please call the Family Faith Office at 973-744-5650.

