

# St. Christopher's

## Family Faith Formation Program Outline

*This is to help explain our new Family Faith Formation model, and why we are making this shift in our program. Many parishes are moving to a family-based approach, so we did a survey earlier this year to consider if it's what our families would choose. The survey results reflected the majority of our families opting for a monthly family-based program. We are fortunate to have the guidance of a recently retired Faith Formation director who developed and successfully implemented this kind of family-based program.*

### ***How is this different? What will this involve?***

- 10 monthly sessions lasting 90 minutes (not including meal time) and two additional retreat days. This means your family will only attend 12 classes for the school year!
- Sacramental preparation includes additional meetings and retreats.
- K-7<sup>th</sup> grade (for other ages see below), there will be a Sunday session (12:15pm-2pm) and a Monday session (5:45pm-7:30pm), but you will only be choosing **ONE** of the options to register for.
- The first 15 minutes of both options will include time to gather for a meal and fellowship. For the 10 monthly sessions, pizza will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own meal if you choose.
- Family Faith Formation includes no drop-offs. Your family (with at least one adult) will need to attend together for the entire time. When we break into separate classes, the adults will gather for the monthly planned discussion or activity.

### ***What if we miss a session?***

We understand that scheduling can be tough, so we are offering a back-up plan if you miss your session. If you are registered for Sundays but are unable to attend one Sunday, you can make up that class by attending the Monday session for that month (and vice versa). In this case, please let us know ahead of time so we can make necessary accommodations.

### ***What will a typical session look like?***

After meal-time, everyone will gather for the opening which will last 10-15 minutes. After that, everyone will separate into age groups for the monthly topic/themes for a variety of activities and lessons. Generally, this will last for one hour. At the end, we will gather back together for a 10-minute closing and blessing.

### ***What about Confirmation classes (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade)?***

Confirmation classes will be held approximately two Mondays per month (opposite the Family Formation weeks), and parents do not need to attend. Even though Confirmation classes do not require parent attendance for classes, you are always welcome and encouraged to participate in the monthly adult and/or confirmation classes whenever you'd like. Also, Confirmation students are invited to attend youth group during the monthly Family Formation sessions. Registration for Confirmation students is the same process as Family Formation registration. You can fill out the registration form found at either church entrance, or you can complete the form online. Go to [www.stchristophersnchili.org](http://www.stchristophersnchili.org), and click on the **Faith Formation** page under the **ministries** tab.

### ***What if we have children younger than Kindergarten? Older than 7<sup>th</sup> Grade? Grandparents?***

We will accommodate all ages. There will be a room devoted to babies through pre-K for childcare and pre-school activities. For students older than 7<sup>th</sup> grade, youth group will meet during this same time in the lounge after the full-group opening for socializing, activities, and a group prayer. Grandparents or other adult family members are welcome to join the adult class as well. We are still in the process of developing the protocol for those not registered to attend Family Faith Formation sessions.

### ***What about payments?***

There is a registration fee for those in grades K-9. When you register, you will need to fill out a separate registration form (either online or a paper copy) for EACH child that will be attending, regardless of age. There will be no fee for babies, Pre-K, and adults. Please see the registration form for fees and deadlines. Please note that there is a one-week July 4<sup>th</sup> flash sale if you hand in or postmark your payment by July 7<sup>th</sup>!

### ***How do we register?***

You can fill out the registration form found at either church entrance, or you can complete the form online. Go to [www.stchristophersnchili.org](http://www.stchristophersnchili.org), and click on the **Faith Formation** page under the **ministries** tab.

*There will be a meeting in August (date to be announced) for all teachers and parents to have an opportunity to ask questions for additional clarification on this new program. The meeting date will be emailed and posted on the Faith Formation page on the website.*

*We look forward to this new journey with all of you!*