

# Holy Family Parish Faith Formation Program 2010-11 for Grades K-10



## FORMING THE FAITH OF OUR CHILDREN

*At Holy Family Parish we have made a commitment and vision for the children of our future by;*

- ✠ *Providing an environment to enable the formation of our children's faith while continuing to support their parents as the first and primary teacher of faith.*

*This vision for our youth is made possible by offering continued formation of our adult community to help foster a mature adult faith. This is made possible by the implementation of a "blended faith formation model."*

*This model interacts with the entire parish in two ways;*

- 1. With the students, their families and the whole parish by coming together for liturgy, a meal and a shared catechetical lesson; Whole Parish Faith Formation (WPF)*
- 2. The second takes place in a traditional classroom like structure where each student attends and receives a lesson pertaining to the traditions and teachings of our Roman Catholic Church.*

Our Theme for Whole Parish Faith Formation (WPF) events this year is

*~Our Creed, and What we Believe.~*

Whole Parish Faith Formation events ***are to be attended as a family unit*** by those families who have registered their children in our program for Grades K-10.

As noted above, WPF events are also open to our entire parish community.

<b>Sunday</b> <b>Dec. 5, 2010</b> <b>10:00-Noon</b> <b>Hosted by</b> <b>Grs. K-3</b>
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<b>Sunday</b> <b>Feb. 13, 2011</b> <b>10:00-Noon</b> <b>Hosted by</b> <b>Grs. 4-6</b>
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<b>Sunday</b> <b>April 10, 2011</b> <b>10:00-Noon</b> <b>Hosted by</b> <b>Grs. 7-9</b>
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## Traditional Faith Sharing Sessions

**We offer three opportunities for the formation and education for the children from our registered families.**

**A master calendar with appropriate dates, gathering times, and meeting places will be made available at all three worship sites during the month of August and will also be posted on our website.**

- 1. Afternoon weekday gatherings in St. Joachim's Faith Sharing Choir Loft.**
- 2. Sunday morning gatherings in our parish school (St. Ann's).**
- 3. Home Schooled by parents for their own child(ren) with bi-monthly gatherings for assessments.**

Grades 7 & 8	Bi-monthly 4-6:30	Parish Hall & Convent Office
Grades K-6	Sunday 8:50-9:55AM	Parish School
High School	Sunday 11:00-12:30 PM	Parish School
*Grs. 1-10		St. Joachim's Faith Sharing loft
Gr. 4	Mon. Evening 6-7PM	St. Joachim's Faith Sharing Loft

*\*All other grade levels and their times for traditional faith sharing sessions in St. Joachim's Faith Sharing Loft will be announced as volunteers make known their available schedules and desired grade levels..*

## ~Our church at home, and at the parish level~

The domestic home “church of the home” is ordinarily the first experience of Christ love expressed through the natural instinctive role of parenting. However catechesis, (the passing on of the knowledge and love of Christ) *is the work of the entire* parish. While we respect and understand the stress that our families are under; a parish program seeks to provide students within a similar age bracket, an inspiration of love of the Lord from a mature leader.



As a parish faith formation program we must follow a number of guidelines which our Boston Diocesan Faith Formation Office stipulates for a parish program. These guidelines range from curriculum development to volunteers who work with the children and the implementation of safety programs both for and with the children. In compliance of these structures we have put together a program we feel meets those standards and the needs of our diverse community.



As with any parish program, families wishing to have their child participate must register each year. We do have a fee of \$75.00/child with a family cap of \$180.00, however **NO child or family will ever** be turned away due to a financial need and it is a goal for our parish to eliminate a Faith Formation tuition. In order to achieve this goal those families seeking faith formation services must be mindful of the overall financial well-being of our parish and the cost to sustain such a program. If a family commits \$25.00/month through our EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) program **no tuition** will be required of them. This enrollment will automatically give you parish envelopes and a yearly statement for your tax deduction. For this option, call our parish office to speak with Mr. John Rosetti who will set this up for you and note this on your child’s registration form. (978-281-4820) ext 0112.

## ~Curriculum Programs for keeping our children safe~

The implementation of Safety Programs will not be done during our classroom gatherings but instead on Saturday’s noted on the schedule as “Safety Saturday.” Darrah Callahan, a child specialist from Boston University has offered her services three times a year to meet with Grades K- Gr. 8. The curriculum chosen by our parish is titled “Keeping Children Safe.” All of our registered students regardless of where or when they gather are requested to attend these lessons. Parents are invited to stay or may drop their son/daughter. Those dates may be noted in our master calendar. These lessons are mandated by the state of Massachusetts and implemented by our Boston Diocese to every parish.

Also, to ensure the safety of our children anyone over the age of 18 who **volunteers in any ministry of service where children are present**, must view the “Protecting God’s Children” video and sign both, a Code of Conduct Behavior and Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) to ensure the safety of our child during a parish event. Parents whose children have limited access to the other parent because of visitation concerns must alert the Director of Faith Formation. Finally any child going home with a different family must present a note in advance to the classroom leader who will inform the director.

## ~General Mass celebrations~

Choosing between Sunday Mass and class. Much of our faith formation (religious education) is intrinsically bound to our liturgical and sacramental actions. Regular participation at Sunday Mass is at the very heart of your child’s formation and without it all other efforts are compromised. Many students become very aware of their religious education community within a traditional grade level situation, while at the same time differentiating or not ever associating with a church. This may lead to a profound sense of a “lack of belonging to a worshipping community” when one does not celebrate Mass regularly. To this cause it is necessary that we help foster an authentic “belonging” to church by regular Mass attendance and the reception of Eucharist. A parent’s promise at their child’s baptism is a promise to choose both: fidelity to Sunday Mass and responsibility for the formation of their child. Therefore our program as with many others stress the attendance at Mass as **a primary source** for a catechetical moment, then supported by a traditional gathering with a community of peers for their grade level formation.



### Weekend Mass Schedule:

4:00 PM, (Saturday Evening Vigil) St. Ann’s  
8:00 AM, & 10:00 AM, St. Ann’s  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM, St. Joachim’s

## ~Grade Level Masses, (GLM)~

A Grade Level Mass is an intentional opportunity to involve the students in the celebration of liturgy. Regardless of our age we must find a way to serve both God and one another and this is a perfect way to be of service! Nonetheless, our service does not end in the midst of the celebration, we are sent at the closing rite and from there as followers of Christ we are charged with going forth to love and serve the Lord and one another!

Celebrations with the involvement of the students will take place during our 4PM, 10:00AM or 11:00 AM current Mass schedule. All Grade Level Masses will be noted on our master calendar with reminder notices from the leader of your son/daughters class. Ministry roles needing to be fulfilled by students are noted below. Our weekend Ushers will guide our students who will volunteer to take up the collections and offer their services as a Greeter.

✠ Lector            ✠ Presentation of the communities gifts and treasures  
✠ Greeter           ✠ Usher            ✠ Altar Server(if already trained)

## ~Home Schooling~

Every family has the option to home school their own child. Families are invited to register their children, receive a grade level text and have full access to our media and text book resources. This option is ideal for families who are unable to our regular Sunday morning program because of work or family schedules. Parents who choose this option for their children as asked to gather once a month to review the suggested lessons and progress that is taking place while also reminded of the importance of participating in our Whole Parish Intergenerational activities. The schedule for Home schooling gatherings is found on our master calendar.



Continuity in religious education is very important. More and more we find children who register for the sacramental years, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. However they do not participate in the other aspects and in so doing so are also missing the celebration of Mass. Our program is based on a curriculum that presumes participation every year.

## ~Sacramental Celebrations and preparations~

Typically but not always students enter the first grade already having received the sacrament of baptism. If your son/daughter has been baptized at a parish other than, St. Ann's, St. Joachim's, Sacred Heart, or St. Peter's a copy of their baptismal certificate is necessary for our records and can be submitted with your registration form. If however your son/daughter has yet to be baptized the sacrament should be considered and must be completed if the child is considering the sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation.



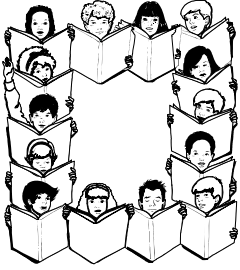
Our parish recognizes and respects the diocesan guidelines. Our First Holy Communion program is two years based on the completion of the First Grade. At the end of Fall, or early Winter the students are typically ready for First Reconciliation, while by Spring sufficiently prepared for the reception of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance or Confession), is a healing sacrament which urges us to make things right with God and one another by renewing the relationships wounded by sin, while Holy Communion, nourishes us in the reception of the body and blood of Christ.

Our Confirmation program is a two year program beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade with the reception of Confirmation in the 10<sup>th</sup> year.

***The purpose for the High School Program is two fold;***

1. To review the students basic knowledge and understanding of their faith after having participated in the developmental program set up for students in grades 1-8.
2. To present the last Sacrament of initiation (Confirmation) for an understanding and possible reception of full membership into our church. Registration for the students takes place in the usual fashion for both years however before entering Gr. 10 or Year II of this program, students will need to complete an Application for Confirmation. This application will be followed by a conversation/evaluation for the sacrament with their sponsor or parent by a parish catechetical leader regarding the intentionality and understanding of the sacrament.

## **~MOVE with Children~**



Led and directed by Mrs. Patty Natti, children in Grades 2-12 are invited to participate in *MOVE*; Ministry of Voice and Evangelization with children. The youth of our parish are invited to share their love of song and praise during our liturgical celebrations each Sunday at either our 10:00 AM Mass at St. Ann's or at our 11:00 AM at St. Joachim's. They will also lead the community in song for our Grade Level Mass celebrations and then join our adult choir for our Whole Parish Faith Formation celebrations. The commitment by the children for this ministry is a weekly practice on Monday evenings from 6-7PM in the church of St. Ann. Students in this program receive their faith formation before their weekly practice with Mrs. Natti as their leader. Typically the students come to their practice with dinner and have their lesson while breaking bread in fellowship.

## **~Catechists/classroom leaders~**

Our traditional classroom program is supported primarily by volunteers who faithfully lead the children on topic by following the curriculum provided to them, and by bringing their own faith experience to this forum. Planning and preparing for each lesson is a responsibility which each catechists must do with the intent to reach all of his/her students. We will hold meetings for the catechists to offer support and ideas for the use of the curriculum and other media resources for the catechists. Those who miss the meetings can meet one on one with Dawn Alves at a more convenient time.

Finally as noted earlier, anyone who volunteers to work with our children must preview the "Protecting God's Children" video, fill out a CORI Form and the Code of Conduct Statement of Agreement. The classroom leaders who will meet with the children in St. Joachim's faith sharing loft will also need a second CORI'd adult at every gathering. Catechists who lead a group of students in the faith sharing loft at St. Joachim's must have another adult present in the vestibule or in the body of the church during class time.

## **~Health concerns, and discipline~**

**Health Concerns** are a priority and must be something everyone is aware of when your son/daughter is away from you or in a peer gathering. If your child has any allergies, physical limitations or academic limitations please be sure to let us know on his/her registration form. We will make sure that the classroom leader, hall monitor, and Office leader is aware of where your child is and how we can manage at the moment of an emergency.

**Discipline;** Because our classroom time is very limited, and our leaders are volunteers it is extremely difficult to also have to deal with discipline issues. If your son/daughter has classroom behavior concerns we prefer that you accompany your child in the classroom. If a child is asked to leave his/her peer gathering, they will be brought down to the main office for the remainder of the class and asked to contact you immediately.

## **~Children with intellectual disabilities~**

Our faith is the cornerstone of our lives. It is certainly by example that our children learn to love God and enter a life-long relationship with their creator. At Holy Family Parish we welcome and support all families and their children to this process. It is foundational for all our children to know that there is a God who loves them and vital that our children see God, not only as Creator, but as a loving Father, who is always there for them. All children need to believe that God always listens to them, even when it seems as though family members or teachers don't hear them. They need to know God is always there, ready and eager to hear what they have to say. The way we present the teachings of the faith to our children will be critical to how they will respond to Jesus invitation to know Him and to love him.

We are blessed to have classroom leaders from our public schools who work with children with intellectual disabilities come and share their understanding of God with them. If you would like your son/daughter to prepare for the sacraments or participate in a learning atmosphere do not hesitate to add them on to the registration form provided. We do need to know specifications on how your son/daughter best learns and an explanation of their individual learning challenges.

***By virtue of our Baptism,  
Christ CALLS US ALL TO SERVE.***

***Volunteers from our parish are essential  
in serving children in our Faith Formation Program.  
Here are some options where you  
can make a difference in our program***

- Lead a group of students in the classroom (Catechists/teacher)*
- A classroom aid*
- Hall Monitors*
- Liturgical preparation for Grade Level Masses (practicing with children as they proclaim the Word)*
- Office help (making copies or running errands for classroom leaders).*
- Helping hands on Safety Saturday*
- Youth events, such as chaperoning or driving*
- Discussion leaders at WFFF events*
- Set up or clean up from the WFFF events (there are only three events this year).*
- Summer VBS volunteer August 9-13 2010; Traveling to Asia & Greece with St. Paul*

Training, support and educational materials are provided by the Faith Formation office. The Time Commitment is preparation of a lesson and approximately one hour / week in the classroom. Your volunteer services help our children grow in faith and love.

Contact Dawn Alves at our Faith Formation Office if you can serve and support any of the positions mentioned above. I would like to help our Parish Faith Formation program by assisting as a

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Contact# ) \_\_\_\_\_

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Often times at WFFF events we take photographs and post them on the bulletin board or on our parish website. Your permission or not is necessary for us to have, please complete the bottom and return it with your registration.

We give our permission to have our child photographed at a parish event for our website or celebration poster.  yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child  
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Please return this volunteer sheet, photograph permission form and the enclosed registration with your payment by July 31st. If needed, please fill out the reverse side for our business manager. ***This is a private document.***

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Holy Family Parish**  
**Faith Formation**



My fee will be;       One child, (\$75.00)     Two Children \$150.00  
                                  Family Cap (\$180.00)

In addition to our registration fees we also have the additional sacramental resource fee of  
 \$75.00.

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- Please find enclosed the full registration fee.
  
  - I will be contacting the office to set up an EFT (automated fund transfer) to support my parish year round. This will make our family exempt from a registration fee but will need to pay the sacramental resource fee of \$75.00 .
  
  - Yes, Please schedule me for a ***Payment Plan***.
  
  - I will have trouble meeting the total expense of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my children and would be interested in some scholarship support.

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Please spread my registration payments out over a period of 6 months. I will make payments in the form of;  
 \$25       \$35       \$50.

Enclosed is my first payment of \_\_\_\_\_.