



St. Monica-St. George Parish Newman Center
328 W. McMillan St.
Cincinnati, OH 45219

August, 2019

Dear Parents,

The lazy, hazy days of summer are still with us but, believe it or not, it's time to register for Children's Faith Formation (CFF) for the 2019-2020 year.

You may be aware from the bulletin that a Parents' Advisory Group has formed to discuss and discern the future of Children's Faith Formation at our parish. Over the years, the number of children has decreased. With last year's Confirmation group, twenty-five young people will likely be moving on, leaving us with about 50 children for the coming year. The Parents' Advisory Group continues to explore ways of responding to the challenges this new reality presents and enhancing Children's Faith Formation for the families of our parish.

One innovation is to set aside the first Sunday of the month for a Family Faith Potluck. Part of the rationale behind this idea is to engage parents more fully, help build community among families with younger children, and allow for more creative means of faith formation among our young people. But practically speaking, it also helps alleviate the burden on catechists who no longer need to commit to being present every Sunday of the academic year, prepared to lead a catechetical session. **The first Family Faith Potluck is scheduled for the opening day of Children's Faith Formation on Sunday, September at about 11:30-1:00 pm. Please NOTE the change in time.**

As indicated above, the consultation with the Parents' Advisory Group is ongoing. Another aspect of faith formation the group seeks to emphasize is involving our young people in service. Although such plans are not specific yet, *I want to stress that the Children's Faith Formation Calendar 2019-2020 needs to be considered tentative.* However, the dates for holidays and sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion are set, as well as the dates for celebrating these sacraments.

Enclosed, you will find:

- ✓ Registration form
- ✓ Children's Faith Formation Calendar 2019-2020
- ✓ Pre-addressed envelope

If your child/ren were registered in Children's Faith Formation last year, the registration form is, for the most part, already filled out. All you need to do is the following:

- Update any information that is incorrect or add any information that is incomplete (e.g. including an email address for both parents or adding/removing a child's name).
- Carefully check to see that the medical and media release statements *on the reverse side* are accurate for each child.
- Sign the document in *both* places that are highlighted in yellow.

- Return this form to the parish office with the appropriate registration fee/s.
- *Please note that there is a separate, additional sacramental preparation fee for those children preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation/First Communion in Grade 2 or Confirmation in Grades 7 and 8. Also, our parish only celebrates Confirmation every other year with the rest of the Catholic churches in our deanery.*

Registration forms are due no later than Tuesday, September 3 to ensure adequate preparation (e.g. class lists, room assignments, student resources, supplies, etc.) for Children's Faith Formation sessions to begin in a timely manner. Sessions are held in the Catholic Center (located in the middle of the church's main parking lot) from 9:20—10:15 am. (Depending on plans for service projects, some dates and times may vary.)

Please keep the CFF calendar handy so you know when holidays and other important dates occur. Normally, there will be no reminders in the bulletin, Friday Hi-lites or by email when CFF is not in session throughout the year if the dates are already on the CFF calendar. (However, families will receive notification via email if CFF is cancelled due to weather or some other unforeseen circumstances.) You can also find the CFF calendar on our parish website.

Like last year, we will rely on the Gospel Weeklies and its catechism handbook as the primary resource for the content of the Sunday catechetical sessions. Catechists should be distributing the take-home booklets each week to encourage families to have a conversation with their child/ren about what took place in their CFF session, what they learned about the Gospel and to pray together. If your child/ren needs to be absent from a session for some reason, you are encouraged to request a copy from your child/ren's catechist/s for the weeks missed. Not only is there a guide for catechists and parents online, there is a *vast array* of creative, helpful ideas for families available in a simple, easy-to-use format. Check out the website at <http://www.pflaumweeklies.com/> and refer back to it often throughout the year.

There are several spots to fill for caring, enthusiastic, faith-filled catechists for the upcoming year. Perhaps God is calling you to respond to this need and to grow in unimaginable ways by becoming a catechist! Because catechists need time to complete a background check, become Virtus certified, and prepare for their role in other ways, it is vitally important to have our team of catechists in place by the end of August. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in serving as a catechist. Even if you are not able to serve as a catechist, please fulfill the requirements to become Virtus certified! In order to serve as a substitute or help chaperone a service project or assist in other ways with children, one needs to be Virtus certified. **A Virtus training session is scheduled for August 31 from 9:00 am—12:00 pm in the Catholic Center.** Contact Mike Huffman, Business Manager, in the parish offices to learn more about becoming certified.

Thank you for the faith foundation you have already provided to your child/ren and for allowing St. Monica-St. George the opportunity to join with you in sharing our Catholic faith and way of life.

I'm excited about our opening Family Faith Potluck and the new energy and enthusiasm that has been fostered through the Parents' Advisory Group. I look forward to seeing you on September 8th!

Blessings,



Sheila Murphy, Pastoral Associate
sheila.murphy@stm-stg.org



St. Monica-St. George Children's Faith Formation Registration Form 2019-2020

Is your family registered at St. Monica-St. George? ___ Yes ___ No

Father's

First and Last Name: _____ Father's cell #: _____

Father's email: _____

Mother's

First and Last Name: _____ Mother's cell #: _____

Mother's Email: _____

Child/ren reside with Mother
Check one Father
 Both parents
 50/50 Custody

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Child 1: **Age:** _____ **Date of Birth:** _____ **Grade:** _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Baptism? Yes No First Reconciliation? Yes No First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No

Child 2: **Age:** _____ **Date of Birth:** _____ **Grade:** _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Baptism? Yes No First Reconciliation? Yes No First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No

Child 3: **Age:** _____ **Date of Birth:** _____ **Grade:** _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Baptism? Yes No First Reconciliation? Yes No First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No

Child 4: **Age:** _____ **Date of Birth:** _____ **Grade:** _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Baptism? Yes No First Reconciliation? Yes No First Communion? Yes No Confirmation? Yes No

Contact me to volunteer as a...
___ Substitute (fills in for catechist)
___ Aide (directly assists catechist/s)
___ Room Parent (special activities)

2019-2020 CFF Fees *Office use only*
\$30 per child (3 or more: \$80). **Additional** \$30 sacramental prep fee for those preparing for the sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation.

CFF Fee Sac prep fee
Amt Pd _____ Ck #/\$ _____ Date _____

Medical Release

I, the undersigned parent/legal guardian of the aforementioned child/ren listed on this form, understand that St. Monica-St. George Parish School of Religion will make every effort to contact me or other designated adult in the case of an emergency. If they cannot reach me or other designated adult, I give permission that emergency medical treatment may be sought. I release St. Monica-St. George Parish, all staff and volunteers from any and all liability which may arise from such an emergency.

Parent signature

Date

Medical Information

Child 1's first name _____

medications/diagnosed medical conditions/food allergies, etc. _____

any other helpful information _____

Child 2's first name _____

medications/diagnosed medical conditions/food allergies, etc. _____

any other helpful information _____

Child 3's first name _____

medications/diagnosed medical conditions/food allergies, etc. _____

any other helpful information _____

Child 4's first name _____

medications/diagnosed medical conditions/food allergies, etc. _____

any other helpful information _____

Media Release

St. Monica-St. George Parish seeks your permission to take and use photos of your child/ren in the following ways from **July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020**:

___ I do not grant permission.

___ ALL

Or only those checked below

___ Website only ___ Bulletin only ___ Brochures only ___ Display in church only ___ Classroom only

Parent signature

Date

St. Monica-St. George Parish Newman Center

2018-2019 Children's Faith Formation Calendar

Children's Sessions—9:20-10:15 am, in rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors, Catholic Center

Family Faith Potlucks—11:30 am-1:00 pm, Parish Hall

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Family Faith Potluck (See time/place above)
- 15 Blessing of Parish Catechists @ all Masses
- 22
- 29

OCTOBER

- 6 Family Faith Potluck (See time/place above) with Parent Meeting
- 13
- 20
- 27

NOVEMBER

- 3 Family Faith Potluck (See time/place above)
- 10
- 13 Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, Catholic Center, 7-8:00 pm
- 17
- 24

DECEMBER

- 1 NO SESSIONS—HOLIDAY BREAK
- 8 Family Faith Potluck (See time/place above) with Advent Prayer Service
- 10 First Reconciliation at Parish Advent Reconciliation Service, 7:00 pm
- 15 NO SESSIONS—HOLIDAY BREAK
- 22 NO SESSIONS—HOLIDAY BREAK
- 24 Children's Liturgy, 4:30 pm
- 29 NO SESSIONS—HOLIDAY BREAK



For questions or concerns related to Children's Faith Formation or sacramental preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion or Confirmation, please contact:

Sheila Murphy, Pastoral Associate
sheila.murphy@stm-stg.org

513-381-6400

JANUARY

- 5 Family Faith Potluck (See time/place above) Epiphany Prayer Service!
- 12 Q & A with Priest, Parish Hall, 9:30-10:15 am—Parents Welcome!
- 19
- 26



FEBRUARY

- 2 Family Faith Potluck(See time/place above)
- 9 Children's Liturgy @ 10:30 am Mass
- 16
- 23

MARCH

- 1 Family Faith Potluck(See time/place above)
- 8
- 15
- 22
- 24 Sacramental Preparation for First Communion, Parish Hall, 7:00-8:15 pm
- 29 Blessing of First Communion Candidates @ 10:30 am Mass

APRIL

- 5 Family Faith Potluck(See time/place above)
- 12 NO SESSIONS—HOLIDAY BREAK
- 19
- 26
- 29 Sacramental Preparation for First Communion, Parish Hall, 7:00-8:15 pm

MAY

- 5 NO SESSIONS—Children's Liturgy First Communion, 10:30 am Mass
- 12 NO SESSIONS—Mother's Day
- 17 CFF Year-end Celebration with Family Faith Potluck(See time/place above)

