

Religious Formation for Children and Youth

St Mark offers three Religious Formation options for children and youth:

Option 1

RELIGIOUS FORMATION SUNDAY SESSIONS (Catechist Option) CALENDAR Preschool – Grade 7 2011 – 2012

Preschool & Kindergarten 8:30am & 10:30am Masses

Grades 1 – 7 Session I – 12:30 – 2:00pm &

Session II – 3:00 – 4:30pm

Full Community Gatherings will be 12:30 to 3:00pm

Regular Religious Formation sessions are conducted weekly on Sunday (except normally the 3rd Sunday of the month) by a primary catechist with the assistance of a catechist assistant and/or parent partner. These weekly sessions are applicable for the following age groups by grade: Pre-School (ages 4-5) and Kindergarten (ages 5-6) during 8:30 and 10:30 mass on Sunday. 1st through 7th Grade (ages 6-12) on Sunday in two sessions at the church: Session 1 is 12:30pm to 2:00pm and Session 2 is twice a month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Note: All sessions are conducted at the church complex (space is limited to 15 children/youth per formation session; placement in each session is on a “first come first served” basis). All preschool through 7th grade formation sessions will normally have the 3rd Sunday of each month off. On these Sundays families who have chosen to participate in the Family Model option of Religious Formation will gather at the church. The Formation Year will begin on Catechetical Sunday, September 18th. Parents will receive their child’s information package and meet their child’s catechist during the first 20 minutes of the Formation session. They are then asked to attend a special Adult Formation session at 1pm, with our pastor, Fr Jim review the changes in the New Roman Missal that will be introduced on the 1st Sunday of Advent. We will have follow up parent meetings on January 15 and April 29, where we will

update what we have accomplished, put out important information and ask for your feedback. The Full Community Gatherings are an integral part of the Formation year and an opportunity for the entire family to grow in their faith. We will conduct one of these gatherings to reflect on Mardi-Gras (Pre-Lent) on February 12. At these sessions we join as a community to reflect on our faith journeys; note the different time (12:30 to 3:00pm). These gatherings will include a meal. We also ask you to participate in the annual Parish Lenten Retreat March 25 to 26 both at 7pm (babysitting will be provided).

- September 18, 11** – **First Formation Session** (parents stay for 1st 20 minutes of the session to meet their child’s catechist) followed by the **Adult Formation Session, at 1pm**
- September 25, 11 – Formation Session
- October 2, 11 – Formation Session
- October 9, 11 – Formation Session
- October 16, 11** – **NO Formation Session (Family Model)**
- October 23, 11 – Formation Session
- October 30, 11 – Formation Session
- November 6, 11 – Formation Session
- November 13, 11 – Formation Session
- November 20, 11** – **No Formation Session (Family Model) and Catechist meeting at 1pm**
- November 27, 11** – **No Formation (Thanksgiving)**
- December 4, 11 – Formation Session
- December 11, 10 – Formation Session
- December 18, 11** – **NO Formation Session (Family Model)**
- December 25, 11** – **NO Formation Session (Christmas)**
- January 1, 12 – **NO Formation Session (New Year’s Day)**
- January 8, 12** – **NO Formation Session (Family Model)**
- January 15, 12 – Formation Session (Note: Parent Meeting)
- January 22, 12 – Formation Session
- January 29, 12 – Formation session
- February 5, 12 – Formation Session
- February 12, 12** – **Mardi Gras Full Community Gathering**
- February 19, 12** – **NO Formation Sessions (Family Model) and Catechist Meeting at 1pm**
- February 26, 12 – Formation Session
- March 4, 12 – Formation Session
- March 11, 12 – Formation Session (1st Sunday of Lent)

March 18, 12	– NO Formation Session (Family Model)
March 25, 12	– Formation Session
April 1, 12	– Formation Session
April 8, 12	– No Formation Session (Easter)
April 15, 12	– NO Formation Session (Family Model)
April 22, 12	– Formation Session
April 29, 12	– Formation Session (Note: Parent Meeting)
May 5-6, 12	– NO Formation Session (First Communion weekend)

Option 2

RELIGIOUS FORMATION HOME-STUDY CALENDAR 2011-2012 & ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE FOR GRADES 1-8

Home Study – parents are the primary teachers of their children in handing on our faith. In this option you directly form your children in the language and practices of the Catholic faith and associated way of life. In this option you can choose when to sit down together with your children to learn about our faith. This option of religious formation is open to all ages (6-13), grades 1-8. Those entering the 9th grade are to enter our Regular Catechist Sunday option as they begin community building as part of the High School formation process to include the sacramental preparation for Confirmation. Preparation for First Penance and Communion is accomplished at the parish with special formation sessions involving both parent and child (along with the other formation options). During the course of the year, our primary resource for Grades 1-8 is the Our Sunday Visitor “Call to Faith” religious formation books along with the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies for grades 1 to 3. The OSV website – http://www.osvcurriculum.com/ctf/nsmedia/parish/parents/home_lessons.html provides a by grade and chapter objective and should be used as a companion to your child’s book. The Pflaum website – http://pflaum.com/weeklyguides_sept25_11.htm provides the associated teaching guides for Promise (Grade 1) and Good News (Grade 2 & 3). The assignment schedule listed below provides a guide for you and your child to work through the appropriate chapter sessions based on the weekly Gospel. Home Study is a contract-based partnership between the parent and parish community. The parish provides the resources necessary to conduct the program and along with the scheduled Full Community gatherings each year which are integral of the formation process. Parents are asked to attend 3 scheduled parent meetings – September 11, January 8 and May 20 all at 12pm in the chapel to review progress, answer questions and provide support. In return you agree to make your way through the formation material, bring in the books to be checked for

progress four times during the year and attend the events and share in the work of this community.

The Home-Study assignment schedule below is designed to keep your child on pace with a weekly schedule associated with the Catechist Religious Formation option. Books and resources are made available at the first Parent's meeting on September 25th. We also ask your family to participate in the Full Community Gatherings (a reflection on Mardi-Gras (pre-Lenten gathering on February 12th) as we join as a community to reflect on our faith journey; note the time (12:30 to 3:00pm). These gatherings will include a meal. We also encourage your participation in the Advent Parish Retreat (Dec 11 to 12) and the Lenten Parish Retreat (March 25 and 26) all at 7pm.

Book checks: To ensure all our Home-Study children are progressing in their formation and receive credit for their efforts, we ask you to turn in their books on October 30, January 8, March 11 and May 20, where they will be reviewed for progress made and returned to the Home Study table for pick-up the following weekend.

September 18, 11 – Adult Formation, including parents, at 1pm with Fr Jim and an introduction to the New Roman Missal

September 25, 11 – Home Study required parent meeting – 12pm in the chapel

September 25, 11 – Ordinary Time, Gospel Passage [Matthew 21:28-32](#) (Parable of the Vineyard with 2 sons, who will enter the Kingdom of God)
Grades-Chapter 1-6, 2-13, 3-1, 4-3, 5-8, 6-4, 7-2, 8-2.

October 2, 11 – Ordinary Time, Gospel Passage [Matthew 21:33-43](#) (Parable of the Vineyard – story of the Hebrews relationship with God, who will inherit the Kingdom)
Grades-Chapter 1-21, 2-4, 3-2, 4-2, 5-1, 6-1, 7-19, 8-5.

October 9, 11 – Ordinary Time, Gospel Passage [Matthew 22:1-14](#) (Parable of Wedding Feast – who is invited to the Kingdom and who is welcome)
Grades-Chapter 1-20, 2-Faith in Action pgs 251 to 269, 3-21, 4-21, 5-16, 6-5, 7-20, 8-16.

October 23, 11 – Ordinary Time, Gospel Passage [Matthew 22:34-40](#) (What is the greatest Commandment)
Grades-Chapter 1-8, 2-7, 3-13, 4-8, 5-6, 6-13, 7-14, 8-3.

October 30, 11 – Ordinary Time (All Saints/All Souls Days), Gospel Passage [Matthew 23:1-12](#) (Example of the Pharisees and kind of people we should be)
Grades-Chapter 1-12, 2-8, 3-18, 4-11, 5-12, 6-19, 7-15, 8-20.

October 30, 11 – First Book review and check

November 6, 11 – Ordinary Time, Gospel Passage [Matthew 25:1-13](#) (Parable of the wise and foolish virgins awaiting the bridegroom, will we be ready for Jesus coming)
Grades-Chapter 1-Catholic Source Book on Scripture & Creed, 2-21, 3-6, 4-7, 5-5, 6-6, 7-3, 8-7.

- November 13, 11 – Ordinary Time, Gospel Passage [Matthew 25:14-30](#) (Parable of the Talents – how do we use our God-given talents)
Grades-Chapter 1-2, 2-19, 3-14, 4-19, 5-Catholic Source Book on Morality, 6-14, 7-11, 8-12.
- December 4, 11 – Advent, Gospel Passage [Mark 1:1-8](#) (Role of John the Baptist)
Grades-Chapter 1-1, 2-1, 3-3, 4-Catholic Source Book on Prayer, 5-7, 6-9, 7-7, 8-18.
- December 11-12, 11– Parish Advent Retreat at 7pm for both dates**
- December 11, 11 – Advent, Gospel Passage [John 1:6-8, 19-28](#) (Who was John the Baptist)
Grades-Chapter 1-5, 2-5, 3-19, 4-4, 5-4, 6-3, 7-5, 8-14.
- December 25, 11 – Christmas (no Formation)**
- January 1, 12 – New Year’s (no Formation)**
- January 8, 12 – Mid-year Home -Study required parent meeting – 12pm in the chapel with second book review and check**
- January 15, 12 – Ordinary, Gospel Passage [John 1:35-42](#) (Disciples following Jesus)
Grades-Chapter 1-18, 2-14, 3-10, 4-5, 5-10, 6-8, 7-17, 8-10.
- January 22, 12 – Ordinary, Gospel Passage [Mark 1:14-20](#) (Calling of the Disciples – fishers of humanity) Grades-Chapter 1-10, 2-6, 3-20, 4-10, 5-11, 6-17, 7-10, 8-11.
- January 29, 12 – Ordinary, Gospel Passage [Mark 1:21-28](#) (Cure of the man with the unclean spirit)
Grades-Chapter 1-3, 2-9, 3-7, 4-1, 5-2, 6-2, 7-12, 8-8.
- February 5, 12 – Ordinary, Gospel Passage [Mark 1:29-39](#) (Cures the sick)
Grades-Chapter 1-7, 2-10, 3-17, 4-18, 5-15, 6-10, 7-18, 8-15.
- February 12, 12 – Ordinary, Gospel Passage [Mark 1:40-45](#) (Curing of the leper)
Grades-Chapter 1-9, 2-15, 3-11, 4-14, 5-14, 6-(Faith in Action pg 251-269), 7-Catholic Source Book on Scripture & Creed, 8-Catholic Source Book on Morality.
- February 26, 12 – Lent, Gospel Passage [Mark 1:12-15](#) (Temptation of Jesus in the desert)
Grades-Chapter 1-14, 2-11, 3-15, 4-6, 5-13, 6-15, 7-13, 8-17.
- March 4, 12 – Lent, Gospel Passage [Mark 9:2-10](#) (Transfiguration)
Grades-Chapter 1-4, 2-3, 3-4, 4-9, 5-3, 6-7, 7-16, 8-9.
- March 11, 12 – Lent, Gospel Passage [John 2:13-25](#) (Cleansing of the Temple)
Grades-Chapter 1-15, 2-17, 3-9, 4-12, 5-17, 6-21, 7-4, 8-13.
- March 11, 12 – Third Book review and check (turn in books to Home Study table, returned on March 18th)**
- March 25-26, 12 – Parish Lenten Retreat at 7pm for both dates**

- March 25, 12 – Lent, Gospel Passage [John 12:20-33](#) (Jesus foretells his passion)
Grades-Chapter 1-19, 2-16, 3-5, 4-13, 5-18, 6-16, 7-8, 8-21.
- April 1, 12 – Palm/Passion, Gospel Passage [Mark 14:1--15:47](#) (The Passion Story)
Grades-Chapter 1-16, 2-18, 3-8, 4-15, 5-9, 6-4, 7-21, 8-6.
- April 8, 12 – Easter**
- April 22, 12 – Easter, Gospel Passage [Luke 24:35-48](#) (Jesus post Resurrection Appearance)
Grades-Chapter 1-13, 2-12, 3-16, 4-20, 5-19, 6-11, 7-9, 8-4.
- April 29, 12 – Easter, Gospel Passage [John 10:11-18](#) (Good Shepherd)
Grades-Chapter 1-11, 2-2, 3-Catholic Source Book on Liturgy, 4-16, 5-20, 6-12, 7-6, 8-19.
- May 5-6, 12 – Easter, Gospel Passage [John 15:1-8](#) (Vine and Branches)
Grades-Chapter 1-17, 2-20, 3-12, 4-17, 5-21, 6-18, 7-6, 8-19.
Note: (First Eucharist weekend at all masses)
- May 20, 12 – Final Home - Study required parent meeting – 12pm in the chapel and final book review and check for credit**
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Option 3

RELIGIOUS FORMATION CALENDAR FAMILY MODEL 2011 – 2012

Family Model – is an intergenerational (family oriented) religious formation option. It is normally conducted once a month on the 3rd Sunday of the month for 3 hours from 12:30 to 3:30pm. It is an option that is popular with larger families that allows you to be formed as a family in the Catholic faith. It is open to all families, no matter what the age of your children or what sacraments they have received (except those preparing for Confirmation). It requires at least one adult from each family. This model uses the Kathleen O’Connell Chesto program, Family-Centered Intergenerational Religious Education (F.I.R.E.). This year our focus is “The Living Community”, where we will reclaim a communal sense of moral living as the true context of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. In our sessions we need to have all adults help facilitate along with the formation team and/or assist in other ways. Lessons are planned and conducted by the Religious Formation staff along with the participating families. This option is limited to 30 families. Most formation sessions meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month (exception September, December and January). The first session will begin in September and conclude in May. Sessions meet

for 3 hours at each gathering with the exception of the Full Community Gatherings. Parents are also asked to attend the Adult Formation session on September 18th at 1pm for the introduction to the New Roman Missal. Integral to our formation program is family participation in the Full Community Gatherings (a reflection on the Mardi-Gras (pre-Lenten gathering on February 12th) as we join as a community to reflect on our faith journeys; note the similar time of 12:30 to 3:00pm. These gatherings will include a meal. We also ask for adult participation in the annual Parish Lenten Retreat during the Lenten Season.

Note: Family Model families are invited to bring their lunches to mass with them, and eat prior to the beginning of the formation session (12:30pm). The refrigerator in the kitchen is available for families to place their lunches.

Since we meet only once a month, we ask families to do their very best to attend each gathering.

September 11, 11	–	12:30 to 3:30pm
September 18, 11	–	1pm Adult Formation Gathering – introduction to the New Roman Missal with Fr Jim Griffin
October 16, 11	–	12:30 – 3:30pm
November 20, 11	–	12:30 to 3:30pm
December 18, 11	–	12:30 – 3:30pm
January 8, 12	–	12:30 to 3:30pm
February 12, 12	–	12:30 – 3:00pm (Mardi-grad pre-Lenten Full Community Gathering)
February 19, 12	–	12:30 to 3:30pm
March 18, 12	–	12:30 – 3:30pm
April 8, 12	–	Easter
April 15, 12	–	12:30 – 3:30pm
May 5-6, 12	–	First Communion weekend

May 20, 12

– 12:30 – 3:30pm