

“How can we carry out the Gospel without drawing the energy needed to do it, one Sunday after another, from the limitless source of the Eucharist?”.

Pope Francis (12/13/17)

Elementary and Middle School Formation

August 2023

I pray that each of you are finding time to enjoy the blessings of summer with your families. Preparation for the coming formation year is well underway, and resources for all our young people and families are ready & waiting! Middle School youth will have opportunities for **service** experiences within and beyond formation sessions, including participating in an area middle school **rally**, to complement the formation they receive within Faith Formation.

Faith Formation in the Eastside Parishes is designed to serve those young people who do NOT attend Newman Catholic Schools. The focus is on encouraging children and families to answer the call to discipleship with heads, hearts, and hands. Providing children and families engaging opportunities to learn more of scripture, tradition, and doctrine, while challenging them to integrate faith into their daily life.

Register now on our parish website: www.eastsideparishes.org/ff.

Your family pre-printed registration form is enclosed. You can also stop by and pick up printed registration materials at the St. Michael office at 611 Stark Street, or by calling and asking that we mail the materials to you.

Wednesday, September 20 at 6:00pm

Open House for all Faith Formation Families (St Michael, Krasowski Hall)

Elementary Faith Formation, 1-5

- “*Discover*” resources will be used by grades 1-5, with supporting resources for children and families.
- Folder with Activity booklets, and a *Catholic Children’s Bible*, is provided for each elementary student.
- Each classroom has a set of “The Catholic Children’s Bible”, as well.

First Reconciliation & First Communion Preparation (typically 2nd grade)

- Faith Formation families ‘check’ additional box on Form A that is required for all those in 2nd grade who wish to receive these sacraments.
- Children continue to receive ongoing formation through the Faith Formation Program or Newman Catholic Schools during their sacramental preparation.

Middle School Faith Formation, 6-8

- Youth ministry is the way in which we invite our young people to know Jesus Christ (see sidebar on other side). Like all catechesis the intention is to “put (young) people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ” (National Directory of Catechesis, par 80).
- “**CONNECT!**” resources by St. Mary’s Press are now being used with Middle School.
 - Active and engaging lessons share the core teachings of our church in a way that helps them connect learning to living as a young disciple.
 - “**Breakthrough!**” bibles designed for middle school youth will also be used.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out with insights, questions or feedback as we move forward.

God Bless, *Michelle*

Michelle Fischer, Faith Formation Director

715-842-1810

Website: eastsideparishes.org

michelle@eastsideparishes.org