

St. Charles Borromeo Faith-Formation

Sunday Mass & the Practice of the Faith: Participation at Sunday & Holy Day Masses, regular Confession throughout the year, daily prayer/devotions at home, and the practice of stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) are the essential first components to faith-formation.

Monthly Family Faith Formation: We do not use a grade-level model, but rather we have adopted a model that allows families to learn together in small groups with other parish families. Families—at least one parent with children (ages 6 and up)—will meet once per month at St. Charles for 90 minutes on a Monday or Wednesday evening for Family Faith Formation.

At-Home Lessons: It is critical that children experience the home as the principal place where faith is shared and practiced. Alongside the monthly Family Faith Formation, our curriculum (*A Family of Faith* by Sophia Institute Press) supplies a second lesson and activities for the home each month. Small groups from Family Faith Formation will meet on a designated date to get together on their own to complete the at-home activity. (If a family in the small group cannot meet with the others, it is possible to complete the lesson on one's own.)

Sacramental Prep: It is a mistake to assume that the Sacraments must be received during a certain grade-level: Reconciliation and Eucharist in second-grade and Confirmation in eighth grade. Rather, readiness for the Sacraments should be determined on an individual basis according to one's maturity in the faith. Preparation for each Sacrament will be offered in the fall and the spring, on the weeks that Family Faith Formation does not meet. To enroll in Sacramental Prep for:

- First Reconciliation or First Communion, children must be 7-12 years old, practicing the faith with their parents, attending Sunday Mass, and participating in Family Faith Formation.
- Confirmation, children must be 10-18 years old, practicing the faith, attending Sunday Mass, and participating in Family Faith Formation (grades 5-6) or the parish Youth Group (grades 7 and up.)

Youth Group: Instead of the monthly Family Faith Formation, students in grades 7-12 are invited to continue their faith-formation through the gatherings of the Youth Group. Students in grades 7-8 meet twice a month on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Students in grades 9-12 will meet weekly on Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m.