



Mary Queen of Heaven
Faith Formation 2026/2027

Faith Formation at Mary Queen of Heaven

Our Catholic faith is steeped in scriptures, tradition, the Eucharist, and family. The role of family, and particularly parents, cannot be understated in developing and growing a child’s faith. Parents are the primary catechists of their children.

“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute.” (CCC, 2221)

As partners in faith formation with our Mary Queen of Heaven families, we want to assist and encourage you in developing your children in our Catholic faith. But, our Faith Formation program is only part of equation in developing true faith and understanding of Catholicism. While the family is the foundation of faith, scripture through the Liturgy of the Word and the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist are also necessary. Attendance in our program is fortified through attendance and participation at Mass. **Of the two, participation in Mass is more important as it is where we both hear the Word of God and receive Christ in the Eucharist.**

Weekend Mass Schedule
4:30pm Saturday
8:30 and 10:00am Sunday
11:30am Sunday Polish language

Program Options:

Traditional Weekly Formation - Wednesdays

All grades: meet 1 hour 15 minutes each week.

Children meet with their catechist every week. There is an expectation that families attend Mass, and parents foster faith formation at home. The catechist guides the children through formation, but parents are still the main teachers of faith.

Schedule Times	Grades
3:15 to 4:30pm	1 st to 5 th grade
5 to 6:15pm	1 st to 6 th grade
6:45 to 8pm	6 th to 8 th grade



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Family Faith Formation - Sundays

The Family Faith Formation program option allows more flexibility in your weekday schedule and focuses on the “Lord’s Day” as family time for faith formation. Family faith formation is not a weekly drop-off program for children only. With the Family Faith Formation program, we give you the resources to enrich your faith together as a family. Since this is **Family Faith, involvement of the parents is a key element.**

1. **Attendance at Mass.** Mass attendance is encouraged for all our Faith Formation families, but it is a key **part of the Family Faith program.**
2. **At Home Formation.** Since this option only meets once a month, in addition to Mass, **completing the syllabus at home** is key to adequate faith formation. For younger grades, parents should assist their child in going through their book as outlined in the syllabus calendar. Older children can complete the units at home on their own with guidance from parents. For all grade levels, there are unit assessments to complete and turn in the following month.

Kindergarten to 6th grade: meets 1 hour 30 minutes each month plus Mass.
(Usually the 1st Sunday of the month)

In addition to the above commitments for Family Faith Formation, our K through 6th grade parents attend with their children. We begin together. After the opening prayer and activity, children go with their catechist and parents and other family members remain and participate in the program. This is not a drop off faith formation program - everyone is involved.

Confirmation Preparation (7th & 8th grade): meets 2 hours each month plus Mass.
(Usually the 2nd Sunday of the month)

Parents are not required to stay for our Confirmation Prep Family Faith, but must ensure that their children attend Mass as a part of this option. **Since 7th & 8th grade are considered Confirmation Preparation years, Mass attendance is critical part of that preparation.**



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*Sacrament Preparation: **First Communion** & **Confirmation***

Sacrament preparation is a two-year formation process. This applies to both **First Communion and Confirmation**. Your child needs to be enrolled in a **Faith Formation program for two consecutive years**. In the 2nd year of preparation, there are separate requirements in addition to the monthly Family Faith Formation or traditional weekly program. Sacrament Calendars with schedules will be available in July.

*First Reconciliation and First Communion
(2nd grade and older)*

At Mary Queen of Heaven, children prepare for First Reconciliation and First Communion at the same time. It is important that your child have a basic understanding of our faith and principles of what it means to be a Catholic. If your child has been enrolled in our Faith Formation here at Mary Queen of Heaven or another parish for at least a year, they are ready to begin the second year of preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion. Below are the requirements for this important Sacrament year.

<i>First Reconciliation & First Communion Requirements</i>		
January	Reconciliation Retreat	Parent(s) & Child
January or February	Reconciliation	Child & Family
February	First Communion Retreat I	Parent(s) & Child
March	First Communion Retreat II	Parent(s) & Child
April or May	First Communion	Child & Family



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Confirmation Preparation I (7th grade and older)

If your child has been enrolled in Faith Formation here at Mary Queen of Heaven or another parish, they are ready to begin the Confirmation Preparation process in 7th grade. Confirmation Prep I participants will begin to prepare through learning and living the gospel values; working on service for the parish or community; and developing a sense of Catholic Social Justice. If you are new to faith formation or your child has not attended for a couple of years, please contact the Director, Mary Glaudell in the Faith Formation office regarding your child’s preparation.

Confirmation Preparation II (8th grade and older)

In the second year of Confirmation Preparation, the participant will commit to preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation as a Confirmation Candidate. The Candidate will continue their growth in faith through learning and living the gospel values; working on service for the parish and community; and developing a sense of Catholic Social Justice. The Candidate will also be required to reflect more deeply on their faith in saint presentations, interviews, a retreat and more. Below are the requirements with approximate month that they will be due/occur.

<i>Confirmation II Requirements</i>		
September	Confirmation Enrollment/Commitment	Parents, Sponsors, Candidates
November	Saint Presentation	Candidate
January	Confirmation Personal Interview	Parents, Sponsors, Candidates
January or February	Confirmation Retreat	Candidates Only
February	Small Group Interviews	Candidates
February	Letter to Pastor	Candidates
February or March	Theology of the Body	Parents, Sponsors, Candidates
TBD	Confirmation Ceremony	Sponsor/Candidate & Family
Service 20 Hours Minimum (due in March)	25% Parish <i>for example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacation Bible School • Fellowship Sunday • Senior Dinner • First Communion Retreats 	25% Community <i>for example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed My Starving Children • PADs or other Soup Kitchen • Nursing Home Volunteer • Elmhurst Park District



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Catechists, Aides and Other Volunteers

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

For our Faith Formation program to be a success, we need volunteers - especially catechists and aides.



Our catechists and aides help to provide age-appropriate formation. You do not have to be a trained teacher or have any prior knowledge beyond a desire and willingness to share your faith. Catechists are responsible for lesson plans We will and classroom management, but we are here to help. **Weekly Catechists receive a full tuition waiver. Monthly Catechists and Weekly Aides receive a 50% discount.** (*Sacrament and Bible fees still apply*). Please consider sharing your faith with the children of Mary Queen of Heaven.

We also need volunteers to assist with the additional responsibilities of maintaining a safe environment for our children during our on-site sessions. Catechist aides and session volunteers will not have any in-class responsibilities but will help with checking-in and escorting the children as well as cleaning the classrooms after each session.

All Adult Volunteers must:

- Complete Adult Volunteer Application Form
- Attend a Protecting God's Children Virtus Workshop – this is done once. Workshops are available online. To begin go to: <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/>
- Have a completed Background Check. This is done every five years and is prompted when you begin your Virtus registration.
- Catechists will have additional online training per state regulations.
- Complete 6 hours of approved formation annually. See the Director (Mary Glaudell) for formation opportunities.

Youth Volunteers (under 18 years old) must complete the "Minor Volunteer Form" prior to assisting. All Youth Volunteers will be partnered with at least one adult volunteer.

Please go to our webpage, under Faith Formation tab <https://www.mqhelmhurst.org/> Download and complete the appropriate Volunteer Form if you are interested in helping or contact the Faith Formation Office.