



Mary Queen of Heaven Faith Formation 2024-2025

Faith Formation at Mary Queen of Heaven

Our Catholic faith is seeped 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.

Program Options:

Traditional Weekly Formation

All grades: meets 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.

Family Faith Formation

Kindergarten to 6th grade: meets 1 hour 30 minutes each month plus Mass.

Confirmation Preparation (7th & 8th grade): meets 2 hours each month plus Mass.*

The Family Faith Formation program 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, participation of the parents is a key element.**

1. **Parents attending the presentation.** A parent or other adult should remain and participate in the program. This is not a drop off the children faith formation program, but everyone is involved.
2. **Attendance at Mass.** Mass attendance is encouraged for all our Faith Formation families, but it is **part of the Family Faith program.**
3. **At Home Formation.** Since this option only meets once a month, attendance at Mass and **completing the syllabus at home** is key to adequate faith formation

The Family Faith option allows you to experience more quality time with your children and help your family to reclaim Sunday as "the Lord's Day"?

***Note the time change for Confirmation Prep participants.**



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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 or 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>		
October	Confirmation Enrollment/Commitment	Parents, Sponsors, Candidate
January	Confirmation Personal Interview	Parents, Sponsors, Candidate
January or February	Confirmation Retreat	Candidates Only
February or March	Small Group Interviews	Candidates
March	Letter to Pastor	Candidate
March or April	Theology of the Body	Parents, Sponsors, Candidate
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

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. We will help you with lesson plans and classroom management. **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. Session volunteers will not have any in-class responsibilities but will help with checking-in and escorting the children as well as sanitizing surfaces.

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 Claudell) 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 and complete the appropriate Volunteer Form if you are interested in helping. <http://mqhelmhurst.org/re/>

"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)