



St. Francis de Sales Church
K-12th Grade Parish Faith Formation
Parent Handbook and Calendar
2025-26

“As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.” -St. John Paul II

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am grateful for your presence in our parish family and am thrilled you will be participating in this new year of parish faith formation. Whether this is your student's first or last year of formation, we welcome your partnership and guidance as we seek to enhance and improve our programs. Is the curriculum changing? No. Are meeting times changing? Not quite, but there is one significant change happening, and it involves YOU!

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that, "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children." (CCC, 2252) You are your child's first role model and teacher in the faith. At the time of your child's Baptism, you were asked to undertake this immense responsibility and bravely accepted the challenge – otherwise, you would not be here today.

However, living this out is difficult and can become secondary to careers, school, sports, vacations, and other commitments and activities. To help families reclaim their identities in Christ, refocus their time and attention on Him, and regain quality time with each other, St. Francis de Sales faith formation programs are shifting to a family-centered model. This model will shorten the number of times your student will attend parish faith formation classes and increase their time spent at home learning from you.

At-home faith formation may be a new or daunting concept. Or, perhaps you are familiar with this formation model but are running low on ideas for engaging faith activities and experiences for your kids. This year, our youth formation programs will strive to better serve you and your family at home by offering at-home lessons, parent prep sessions, and other helpful formation resources.

I pick a new theme for our parish faith formation each year. This year, I chose a quote from St. John Paul II: "As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live." Family formation matters because families shape the world. The world needs your family and its gifts, and the Church does, too. Take heart and be bold in loving, serving, and teaching your family this year. If there is anything I can do to help you, your student, or your family, don't hesitate to ask. I'm always happy to meet for coffee or ice cream, visit you during your lunch hour, or chat over a phone call.

May God bless and protect you and your family during this school year!

Joyfully,

McKinzie Murley, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

faithformation@stfrancislansing.org

K-12th Faith Formation Calendar

Parish formation runs September through April on the Sundays listed below:

*Asterisks denote a special event. More details can be found on our parish website.

September: 7*, 14, 21, 28

October: 5, 26

November: 2, 9, 16, 23*

December: 7, 14 (Confirmation students only)

January: 18, 25

February: 1, 8, 15*, 22

March: 22, 29

April: 12, 19, 26

K-5th Grade Student Drop Off and Pick Up

K-5th grade parents may drop their students off for Faith Formation without walking them to class, though you are welcome to walk them to class if you like. Students should enter through the front doors of the parish hall and wait in the hall until their catechist arrives. **All students must be picked up from their classrooms and will not be allowed to meet parents in the parking lot.**

Curricula

Faith Formation (K-5th Grade) – *Gospel Weeklies* from *Pflaum*

First Reconciliation + Communion Prep – *Renewed* and *Received* from *Ascension Press*

Middle School Youth Group (6th-7th Grade) – *EDGE* from *LifeTeen*

Confirmation Prep – *PURPOSE* from *LifeTeen*

High School Youth Group (9th-12th Grade) – *LifeTeen*, *YDisciple*, *FORMED*, etc.

Session Times:

Grades K-5

Sunday – 9:00-10:00 AM

Grades 6-12

Sunday – 5:00-7:00 PM

Special Events + Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

September 7: Parish Mission Week (6:00-7:30 PM in the Church)

November 23: VIRTUS Class (All K-12th graders; an opt-out form will be sent home two weeks prior)

January 25: 6th-12th graders will meet from 12:00-2:00 PM

February 8: 6th-12th graders will meet from 12:00-2:00 PM

February 15: No Class; Come and Go Lent Prep in the Parish Hall

Monthly Youth Mass: Held at 10:15 AM on the second Sunday of every month.

K-12 Parent Prep Sessions: October 5, November 23, February 8, and April 19 from 9:00-10:00 AM in the Parish Hall Chapel.

St. Francis de Sales Family Formation Commitment

We recognize parents/guardians as the primary catechists of their children. As we join together in the faith formation of your child, we can only strengthen the Catholic life you lead at home. We support you in this ministry, but we cannot replace you. Rather, we seek to share with you in the role of imparting the true teachings of the Catholic faith to your children.

We invite all St. Francis de Sales parents/guardians to partner in our pledge to faith and spiritual formation by:

- Praying with your child(ren) daily and modeling prayer for them
- Participating weekly in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation:
 - August 15 – The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - December 8 – The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
 - December 25 – The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Christmas)
 - January 1 – The Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
- Attending faith formation sessions regularly
- Reading and meditating on Scripture as a family
- Attending Confession regularly as a family to receive Christ's healing mercy (once a month recommended)
- Living as the Body of Christ through generous self-giving of one's time, talent, and treasure in our parish and local communities

Family Formation Resources

1. FORMED

- a. Go to FORMED.org/individuals and submit your email to join.
- b. Find St. Francis de Sales by entering our zip code 66043.
- c. Click “Submit” and enjoy access to movies, e-books, and more!

2. Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Faith Formation Program:

<https://www.gospelweeklies.com/>

3. Family Formation Podcasts: <https://linktr.ee/FamilyandParentingPodcasts>

4. Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries: <https://www.fflcm.org/home>

5. The Institute for Catholic Formation:

<https://formationreimagined.org/family-formation/>

Dillons Community Rewards Program

Did you know that all sacrament fees and expenses associated with Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and Holy Matrimony are covered by our Dillons partnership?

How to link your Shopper’s Card:

1. Create a digital account.

- a. A digital account is needed to participate in the Community Rewards Program. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper’s Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose. Visit Dillons.com/communityrewards or scan the QR code below.

2. Link your Card to an organization.

- a. Sign in to your digital account.
- b. Search for your organization.
- c. Enter the name (“St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church”) or NPO number (XB353).
- d. Select the organization from the list and click “Save”.



3. Your organization earns.

- a. Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper’s Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you.

A Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

In our daily life and work, may we reflect the self-giving love which you, O Father, eternally show with your Son and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness, and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer composed by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Supreme Chaplain.