

## **Youth Faith Formation: 2019-2020**

### **Sacred Heart Parish, St. Helena Parish and St. Mary's Mission**

*Please see the attached calendar for important dates and class schedule.*

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#### **PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

Everyone is encouraged to participate fully in the life of the parish including Mass on weekends, religious education classes (RE) or youth ministry, community service, whole community faith formation sessions, and parish events. We offer four program options: traditional, hybrid, homeschool and youth ministry for grades 7-12. Classes meet at Sacred Heart on Sunday mornings after 9:30am Mass until noon. Youth ministry will typically take place on Sunday mornings, but includes other opportunities at different times. We ask that families assist with the hospitality/snack at the beginning of class and in the classroom twice per year.

**TRADITIONAL:** Our Kindergarten through 12th grade program meets on scheduled Sunday mornings from 10:30 am to noon. Snack and fellowship begin after 9:30 am Mass until 10:40 am in the parish hall. Youth ministry will move to in the parish office and begin promptly at 10:45 am. K-6 will have opening prayer in the parish hall and break into small groups/classes. All gather at 11:55 am on the front steps of the church or inside if the weather is not good. Drivers, families, and community members are encouraged to participate in our closing prayer: the Angelus. Bells start at 11:59 am and the prayer concludes promptly at noon.

**HYBRID:** Designed for special circumstances, the hybrid program is a mixture of classroom, parish, and homeschooling. Parents should indicate their anticipated schedule in the fall (i.e. family conflict, sports, etc.) and students are expected to attend all sessions that fit that schedule. Many parish activities and events occur outside of the Sunday morning time to allow for some flexibility in meeting course expectations of study, liturgy, community service, and prayer.

**HOMESCHOOL:** If a family is unable to make a commitment to the hybrid program and seeks a homeschool alternative, please schedule a meeting with the director of faith formation, to define goals in the following areas: textbook/study, liturgical celebration, community service, and prayer. The homeschool option is not available for the two year sacramental ministry preparation for Confirmation and First Eucharist.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** The 7th-12th grade program is completely redesigned this year and will continue to evolve based on the needs of those enrolled. Youth will have the opportunity to “go deeper” and explore what it is to be Catholic. Their program will be designed to include large and small group presentations, hands-on activities, service, discussion, field trips and fun. Youth ministry will typically take place on Sunday mornings, but includes other opportunities at different times.

#### **SACRAMENTAL MINISTRIES**

[Sacramental Ministries](#) are a partnership between the family and parish to prepare for, celebrate and live the sacraments each day of our lives. The link will take you to the diocesan handbook. Preparation is a two year process and includes home activities, family and/or youth retreats, faith formation events, and specialized sessions. Sacraments of Initiation are a covenant and require a commitment to full participation by the child, parent and sponsor and church.

A Baptismal Certificate is required for all faith formation programs, please provide a copy with your registration if it did not take place at Sacred Heart, St. Helena or St. Mary's. If your child has not been Baptized, enroll in their grade specific faith formation program and age grouped sessions will be created as needed. The celebration of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, for properly disposed students, will be scheduled in the spring with the bishop. More information on the Diocesan initiative to restore the order of the Sacraments of initiation can be found [on their website](#). The two year process begins in second grade with preparation for First Reconciliation, and in third grade, students will focus on Confirmation and First Holy Communion. If your child in Grades 4-12 has not been confirmed, please enroll in their grade specific faith formation program and sacramental ministries to complete their preparation and full Christian initiation.