

Family Faith Formation Handbook



2021 – 2022

Holy Saints ACC

Holy Saints ACC Faith Formation Center

Location: Holy Cross School Building

10672 Co Rd 8, Kimball, MN 55353

Pastors: Fr. Matthew Crane fathercrane@gmail.com
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Faith Formation:

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Mass Times:

Holy Cross

10651 Co Hwy 8, Kimball, MN 55353

Saturday 4:00 pm

St. Anne

441 Hazel Ave E, Kimball, MN 55353

Saturday 5:00 pm

St. Mary's Help of Christian's (SMHOC)

24588 Co Rd 7, St Augusta, MN 56301

Saturday: 6:30 pm

Sunday 8:00 am

St. Nicholas

15862 Co Rd 165, Watkins, MN 55389

Sunday 9:00 am

St. Wendelin

22714 State Hwy. 15, Luxemburg, MN 56301

Sunday 10:00 am

Holy Saints ACC (Area Catholic Communities)

The Church exists from age to age to proclaim the Gospel and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Standing on the foundation laid by the preceding generations, the Diocese of Saint Cloud seeks to foster vibrancy for the sake of Jesus Christ. The current 131 parishes within our Diocese are home to 125,000 Catholics across central Minnesota. Every generation has its gifts and challenges. In the present age, we are facing a decline in Catholic population and priests across the Diocese. To continue to thrive, the St. Cloud Diocese is inviting these Eucharistic communities to come together to intentionally collaborate for the mission of the universal Church

Vision: Every parish in the Diocese of Saint Cloud will be part of an Area Catholic Community consisting of two or more parishes in a given area. All Area Catholic Communities will collaborate to provide for the pastoral and spiritual needs of all. As Area Catholic Communities share resources, talents, and efforts we hope to reenergize Catholics so all parishes thrive in the Diocese of Saint Cloud.

Source: stcdio.org

Holy Saints ACC Family Faith Formation

Our goal this year is to empower and equip our families to live out their Catholic faith at home and within our parish communities. Our desire is to provide opportunities to experience the Holy Trinity through Eucharistic encounters and fellowship building opportunities.

We recognize the unique opportunity we have to bring 5 rural Catholic communities together. We know there are many challenges, and we aim to eliminate as much miscommunication and confusion as possible.

The biggest challenge is how to consolidate 5 locations into one program. We are thankful that Holy Cross parish has partnered with our Holy Saints ACC to allow our Faith Formation to utilize the Holy Cross school building. We understand that having one program has not been done before. We ask for your prayers, patience and extension of grace as we navigate this uncharted territory.

The pandemic last year proved to be very challenging in many different ways. We want to collaborate to bring families back together and back to the Eucharist. We know each family, parent and child are on their own faith journey. Our goal is that you do not feel alone! Jesus Christ and His church can restore your faith, hope and fill the desire to be known and loved!

We are still looking for helpers and substitute teachers. How can you give of your gifts and talents? Our volunteers are very valuable to our program! We appreciate their dedication and sacrifice to be present to our youth. The St. Cloud Diocese mandates that all adults working with children/minors be trained in Safe Environment. If you are interested in helping out, please visit our website or

<https://tinyurl.com/y27sc6jz> .

Praying for your domestic church (family),

Kelli Kleinschnitz

Curriculum:

Family Formation (Primary Grades 1st – 6th) Includes Second Grade Sacramental Preparation

Children are more likely to put into practice the faith they see lived out day-to-day at home.

There is a receptivity and vulnerability to good formation which only happens in the early years of children's development, and only in the family. A family catechesis program helps families to embrace this time and use it to form their children well.

A careful reading through the documents of the Catholic Church quickly reveals the Church's great expectations for the family. "The right and duty of parents to give education is essential ... original and primary ... and it is irreplaceable and incapable of being entirely delegated to others" [Familiaris Consortio, 36]. Christ and His Church call parents to be "the first and foremost educators of their children" [Gravissimum Educationis, 3]. Family catechesis aids families in becoming the domestic churches they are called to be. [Lumen Gentium]

More information and lesson samples : <https://www.familyformation.net>

Ascension Programs:

The Teen Timeline —or T3— (7th Grade)

This program is the teen version of the revolutionary *Great Adventure Bible Timeline* learning system that hundreds of thousands of Catholic adults have used to learn the Bible. Dynamic teen presenter Mark Hart makes the Bible come alive for Catholic teens by unpacking God's Word in a way they can relate to. T3 teaches teens the Bible by showing them the "big picture" of salvation history.

Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed (Secondary Grades 8th grade and up)

Through a unique learning experience, including powerful cinematography and workbook resources, teens will come to see the Mass and the priesthood in a dramatically new way. Altaration is designed to stir thought, create conversation, dispel myths, and inspire young souls to a deep and lasting love for the Mass. The goal of Altaration is not to fill teens' heads with information but to pierce their hearts with transformation.

Chosen: Your Journey towards Confirmation

Chosen: This is Your Catholic Faith takes young people on a journey through the entire Catholic faith in all its richness and vitality. Teens will be captivated by the story, from Creation all the way through salvation history, and they will come to see how the sacraments, prayer, and discipleship are the keys to a happy life. The goal of this 24-lesson program is nothing short of winning over the hearts of teens and making them disciples of Christ.

More information and lesson samples for Ascension Programs can be found at :

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/teen-faith-formation>

Virtus: Safe Environment Training for students.

One lesson will be taught each year to all students. As parents, you can opt out of the training through Safe environment and facilitate your own at home lesson with your child/ren. Please email me directly to receive the at home lesson and paperwork to opt out.

Monthly Schedule:

Each month will be referenced in a manner of weeks; Week 1, Week 2, Week 3. Due to holidays and Feasts days, week number will not always correlate with the first, second and third week of the month.

Week 1: Family Faith Formation Night

This is the monthly gathering for the entire family. Each month will have a specific topic. This topic will be presented to parents by a local speaker who will share their knowledge and testimony. Primary grades (1-7) will have classroom time with a Catechist. Older students are welcome to attend the speaker with their parents, help out in classrooms or childcare room, or have the night off if families feel this is appropriate. Families will be given monthly packets with resources and activities to incorporate into the month.

Time: 5:45 - 6:15 (Meal provided for attendees)

6:15 - 6:30 (Check In, Announcements)

6:30 - 7:45 Speaker & Fellowship for Parents
Grades 1 - 7 with Catechists in classrooms

Week 2: This week is for our secondary students! We invite teens 8th grade and up to join us for a high energy and dynamic faith building experience. We will have youth group style activities, small group discussions and prayer experiences that will strengthen teens' relationship with the Trinity and with each other. Weeks 2 (Secondary Students- 8th grade and up)

Time: 5:45 - 6:15 (Meal)

6:15 - 6:30 (Attendance)

6:30 - 7:00 Large Group Activity (lead by Kelli/ Lester)

7:00- 7:40 Small Group discussion after video presentation

7:40 - 7:50 Large Group Prayer (Lead by Kelli/Lester)

8:00 : Students All Picked up!

Week 3: Grades 1st grade through 7th grade will meet in their classrooms. 8th grade and up will meet in the gym space and walk over to the church following attendance and opening activity.

Time: 5:45 - 6:15 (Meal)

6:15 - 6:30 (Attendance)

6:30 - 7:30 Primary Students meet in Classrooms, Secondary Grades meet in Gym

7:30 - 7:50 Large Group Prayer (Lead by Kelli/Lester)

8:00 : Students All Picked up!

Before Program Meal

We want to strive to make this transition to one location as easy as possible. We know how busy it is after school! We will be offering a light meal from 5:45 - 6:15 pm for students prior to attendance. This also will be offered before our parent nights. Our goal is eventually to get to a potluck style when we have the parent speaker! A weekly meal poll will be sent out so we can get a headcount for meals.

We are looking for parents to sign up to help serve the meal! If you are able to help us out, please use this link to sign up!

<https://tinyurl.com/ms3xh4kf> or check our HolySaintsMN.org

Fall Session Dates:

We are providing class dates for the fall session. We will send out a parent feedback form regarding dates, weekly frequency, and content after December 22nd! We will look over and discern if any changes need to be made for the remainder of the year. It also allows us to make changes if mandates and regulations are reimplemented during peak cold/flu season.

All Events/Classes listed are held at Holy Cross School unless otherwise specified.

Week 1 Parents & Grades 1-7	Week 2 Grades 8th & Up	Week 3 Grades 1-7th Grades 8th & Up	Confirmation Class
10/6	10/13	10/27	10/24
11/3	11/10	11/17	11/21
12/1	12/15	12/22	12/5

1/12 (Tentative Start up of Spring Session: Family Faith Formation Night & Speaker)

Other Important Dates:

Catechist/Small Group Training 9/22 & 9/29 at 7 pm

First Reconciliation Retreat: 11/20 (8:45 - 11 am)

First Communion Practice: March 19th & 20th at Respective Parishes

First Communion Weekends: March 26 & 27 at respective parishes

NET Confirmation/Secondary Retreat: 3/5 from 11 - 6

Confirmation: 5/22 confirmation 2:00 pm at St. Nicholas

Spring dates will be sent out in the beginning of January. We want to allow parents to complete a feedback form and make any adjustments to the programming if needed .

Drop off/Pick Up Procedure:

Parking: There is parking on the east & west lots of the school, east side of church, street, and on the grass lot between cemetery and baseball field.

Drop Off: There are two main doors. The West main door is the classroom wing for grades 1-5. Attendance by grade specific Catechists will happen right as students enter the classrooms.

The East Door will be the main door for Family Faith Formation nights with Parent speaker, and for grades 6th and up!

Pick up: Parents or designated guardians/siblings will be asked to pick up students grades 1st - 5th directly from their classrooms.

Family Formation Fees:

St. Mary's Help of Christian is our central faith formation financial account keeper. Any faith formation fees payments should be addressed to and delivered to St. Mary's Help of Christian at 24588 Co Rd 7, St Augusta, MN 56301. SMHOC is responsible for handling all money associated with ACC faith formation.

The registration fee is \$30 per child, up to 3 children. The max amount a family will be required to pay for Family Faith Formation will be \$90. *St. Nicholas parish holds a specific fundraising to cover registration fees for parish families.

There is an additional Sacramental Fee of \$20 per child in sacramental preparation classes. Sacramental fees are for those in second grade (First Reconciliation & First Eucharist) and for those in Confirmation.

Scrip: If you use the Scrip program to pay for faith formation, please let Kelli know.

Meal Helpers:

To ease the hustle and bustle of Wednesday nights, we are providing a light meal for any student prior to our Faith Formation night! We are looking for a few volunteers to help out each night! Arrive between 5-5:15 and serve meals from 5:45 - 6:15 pm. Please use the following Signup genius link to sign up!

<https://tinyurl.com/ms3xh4kf>

Discipline:

We want to provide a positive environment for everyone. Of course, we expect that each student will demonstrate appropriate behavior such as; listening to catechists, participating in discussions, keeping hands, feet, and objects to themselves, using words that encourage and uplift, and respecting church and faith formation center property.

At times, it becomes necessary to give corrections and discipline. These steps will be taken.

1. Verbal warning
2. The student will be asked to leave the room. Student then will chat with the Director, and then return to class with an apology. Parents will be notified.
3. If another incident occurs, a parent will be required to be present in the classroom for the remainder of the year.
4. If a third incident occurs, the child will be removed from the program for the remainder of the year.

Communication:

We will strive to have clear and timely communication. We have put in place several electronic ways to stay up to date. Minimal information will be mailed home to eliminate paper and postal costs. Kelli's personal cell phone number is listed, please be mindful only use this mode of communication within office hour times or in an emergency. Immediate announcements will be made through Remind App, email, and posted to our Facebook & Website page! If you have a concern, please set up a time to call or talk to Kelli in person. A lot can be misinterpreted through texts and emails.

Remind App:

To receive vital Faith Formation updates for your child for everything from class cancellations due to weather to weekly class expectations and updates, be sure to join our Remind texting group.

How to Sign Up: Send a text to the number sequence 81010 with the message reading: @Holysaints

Website: HolySaintsMn.Org

Click the Faith Formation Tab! Our Faith Formation Home Page highlights the last 8 Facebook posts made.

Facebook Page: Holy Saints ACC Youth

These posts are made to provide clarification and highlight what we are doing at our Faith Formation Program! Recent posts will be linked to the website.

Monthly Newsletter (Email):

The week before the new month, families will receive a newsletter highlighting the monthly calendar, speaker, Feast/Holy Days, and optional resources for parents & families! ACC bulletin will be updated weekly!

Kelli's Office Hours:

Monday (St. Anne's) 8 - 2 pm Tuesday (St. Mary's Help of Christian) 8 – 2 pm

Wednesday (Holy Cross) All Day Thursday (St. Mary's Help of Christian or Home)

Covid Policies:

Covid regulations and mitigations are set forth from the Diocese of St. Cloud. If you are feeling ill, are in the process of receiving covid test results, have a positive test result, or have been directly exposed, please stay home.

Weather:

We will monitor weather conditions and school closures. We will do our best to make cancellation decisions as early as possible. We will send a Remind text, post to our facebook page, and send out an email. We recognize that some students may be driving independently and farther than others. You know your route, vehicle and drivers ability.

Sacraments: “It is particularly important for us to teach children that sacraments are so much more than a ceremony to prepare for; they are God’s way of reaching down to us and offering us a lifelong gift—a gift of grace that gives us a glimpse of heaven and a taste of eternity.” Elizabeth Kelly

First Holy Eucharist:

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. Baptism is received once; Eucharist is received over and over again. Baptism initiates us into the body of Christ; Eucharist is communion with the body of Christ. Baptism is the first flow of grace; Eucharist is a fountain of ongoing grace. Baptism sets the table; Eucharist is a banquet that provides spiritual sustenance for a lifetime. Baptism is the beginning of the journey of faith on earth; Eucharist is Viaticum — given when death is imminent — and ideally is the last sacrament, and brings us home to heaven.

First Reconciliation:

Preparing children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation allows us to show them that God is love and that in mercy He is always ready to forgive, no matter what the wrong. It assures them that God already knows the secrets of our hearts, but sometimes we need to name these aloud in order to prepare our hearts to renew the experience of God's love and forgiveness. It shows them that just as God is One, God dreams that we might all be one as well—one with each other and one with God. God's will is that all people will be reconciled with one another and with God.

Curriculum: Family Formation Reconciliation booklet to be completed in the fall and Family Formation Eucharist booklet will be completed in the spring. The booklets will be completed within the classroom and some at home activities.

Important Dates:

First Reconciliation Retreat & Sacrament: 11/20th (8:45 - 11 am)

First Communion Practice: At RSVP Mass times: March 19th & 20th at Respective Parishes

First Communion Weekends: March 26th & 27th at Respective Parishes

Service Opportunities for 2nd graders

The pastors have encouraged us to invite second grade families to volunteer twice during the year to bring up the gifts (bread and wine) at Mass. You can sign up for Mass times through the SignUp Genius link! <https://tinyurl.com/4cvxfd6b>

RSVP for First Communion Mass:

This form can be filled out closer to the date! : <https://forms.gle/woYnvkrrubnVx2gu6>

We will have practice the weekend before at the Mass times selected in the form. Father Matthew, Kelli, Brenda, or Lester will assign a pew for each child. Then after Mass, leaders will address any parent concerns and answer questions about the day.

Confirmation:

Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. Through Confirmation, our personal relationship with Christ is strengthened. We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service.

The Holy Spirit bestows seven gifts—wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and fear of the Lord—to assist us in our mission and witness. The impact of these gifts accompanies us in the various stages of our spiritual development.

As the confirmed, we walk with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. When we are responsive to the grace of Confirmation and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, we begin to bear the fruits of the Spirit. The tradition of the Church names twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity (cf. CCC, no. 1832; Gal 5:22).

You can read more from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

Logistics

10th and 11th graders who have not yet been confirmed will be able to receive the sacrament of Confirmation this year. The Confirmation will be a 1 year program. Bishop Kettler's scheduling office determined the date, time and location. Confirmation students will have opportunities to grow in faith and stewardship this year. There will be once a month meeting on a Sunday night for candidates. A parent should attend the first meeting, if a parent isn't able to attend another trusted adult can take the place. The first meeting we will discuss spiritual and service house, sponsor selection, saint study and how to meditate on the weekly gospels. It is strongly encouraged that those in Confirmation attend the secondary Week 2 & 3 dates.

Fall Class Dates are: 10/24, 11/21, 12/5 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Holy Cross

Confirmation Retreat: March 5th from 10:45 - 6:00 pm at Holy Cross.

If a candidate cannot make the retreat, it will be up to the candidate to schedule and attend another local retreat