



OUR LADY  
OF CONSOLATION

**Faith Formation  
Family Handbook  
2019-2020**

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# Our Lady of Consolation Parish

## Faith Formation

Dear Parents:

This handbook is designed to help you in your Christian parenting responsibility of passing on our Catholic faith. By providing information in this handbook, we hope to assist you in your journey of faith and parenting.

Today's society demands that we consider not only educational and religious subject matter, but also legal issues and pastoral concerns. Therefore, you will notice information that addresses each of these topics.

This handbook provides much information and many guidelines. May it be a starting point for a meaningful and fruitful journey of faith for you and your family. On behalf of Our Lady of Consolation Parish, we thank you for your time and talents in passing on the faith to your family.

May God Bless You and Your Family!

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# Our Lady of Consolation Education Foundation

The following information may be helpful as you prayerfully consider your pledge to the Our Lady of Consolation Education Foundation.

The annual pledge period is 12 months long and runs from September 1 through August 31.

Approximate yearly educational costs:

\$4,400.00 per child attending Our Lady of Consolation School

\$100.00 per person for each Adult Bible/Book Study, RCIA, Adult Formation Sessions, Vacation Bible School, Preparation for Sacraments

\$830.00 per child attending weekly Faith Formation programs.

Parents are told that there are certain requirements expected of them if they wish to enroll their child (children) at OLC. Those requirements are:

1. You must attend church regularly. (Not necessarily OLC).
2. Parents are expected to volunteer 10 - 20 hours per year of their own personal time, this can be to the Parish, school, Faith Formation or to Foundation activities which can be accomplished in a variety of ways.
3. There must be a demonstration of a Christian attitude by parents & children.
4. Parents are informed that the annual cost of educating a student in Faith Formation is approximately \$830.00 and that they should give prayerful consideration to the amount they are able to contribute.

**Parents are asked to consider a Gospel tithe model for sacrificial giving. Such a model might be 5% to the OLCEF and 5% to OLC Church. This Foundation covenant encompasses only the Foundation portion of the tithe. This model emphasizes equal sacrifice not equal giving. Those who earn more can give more so that those who earn less can still afford a Catholic education.**

No minimum pledge amount is required. Even with a pledge of zero, parents are expected to comply with the non-financial components of the covenant.

5. Parents are required to sign the Parents' Covenant (completed above) indicating their understanding of the covenant. Students cannot be admitted to OLC Faith Formation without parental signatures on the Parents' Covenant.

Donations to OLC Education Foundation are tax deductible in accordance with an IRS letter of July 6, 1993.

Donations to OLC Education Foundation can be made in one lump sum donation or made semi-annually, quarterly, or monthly.

Periodically, for budget purposes, a review is made of donations received. Should some appear to be falling behind in their commitment, contact may be made to discuss the particular situation. However, in any event, no child will be asked to withdraw from OLC school or Faith Formation Programs should their parents fail to comply with their financial pledge made nor will any undue pressure, either direct or implied, be placed upon any family.

Unlike the financial pledge, the non-financial components of the covenant do require compliance. The requirements for regular attendance at church, and at parent sacramental meetings are not optional. In addition, the volunteer hours and the demonstration of Christian attitude by both parents and their students are expected.

Any pledge made is considered to be the parents' good-faith intention of giving to the Foundation. A pledge is not a legal obligation. Unforeseen situations may make necessary modifications to the pledged amounts.

Pledged amounts may be paid by third parties, e.g. grandparents. Use of company matching fund programs is encouraged. Activity & Retreat fees are not part of the pledge, are required, and are in addition to the covenant, but may be paid through the electronic credit/debit card process. Electronic giving is the preferred mode of payment for pledges.

This giving-based Foundation program enables us to offer Catholic education to a wide range of people, regardless of their financial means. Our hope is that people will maintain their giving to the Foundation even when they no longer benefit directly from parish educational programs. Only through continued financial commitment to sacrificial giving can we preserve the benefits of the Foundation and the cause of Catholic education for years to come.

## **Faith of the Parents**

Parents hold a privileged role and responsibility in family life (CCC 2221-2230). Before the Christian community, parents present and name their child and ask the Church for Baptism—the gift of faith and life of grace. In doing so, they accept the responsibility of “training them in the practice of the faith, to bring them up to keep God’s commandments [and to] love God and our neighbor”. Only after acknowledging this responsibility do parents sign their infant child with the cross of salvation, claiming the child for Christ. Through this sacrament, parents ritually express their personal commitment to God, to the community of faith and to their child. They can do so only because they first have faith. It is the promise of this living tradition, of God present in the community of faith—as parish and as domestic church—that is the foundation of hope and our ability to transmit faith from generation to generation.

For our children to have faith, our parents must first have faith (General Directory for Catechesis 226). The adage, “faith is caught, not taught,” is true especially for the domestic church. Simply put, parents teach most effectively by example. They profoundly affect the faith of their children by attending first to their own faith and religion. Each parent is obliged to live the baptismal vocation as priest, prophet and servant-ruler in the home, in the workplace and in the marketplace.

Parents with children and youth participating in our programs are challenged to live as stewards of God’s bounty. Once we accept that God has given us everything we have, we must then begin the journey of returning a portion of our gifts back to God. This not an easy thing to do, especially in a society that places endless demands on our time and our resources. Steps along the stewardship journey include:

- Striving to spend more time with God in prayer, Mass attendance, and Eucharistic adoration so that we will have a fuller understanding of how God wants us to use our many gifts.
- Seeing the parish as a place where we can serve, rather than a place meant to serve us.
- Determining the percentage of our income that we currently return to God, so that we can accurately know how much we really give.
- Making a commitment to put God first on our calendar and in our budget.

## Registration for Faith Formation

Your child's registration does not automatically roll over from year to year. You must register your child for classes with each new school year. Student registration is online for Faith Formation at the church website: [www.olcparishrockford.com](http://www.olcparishrockford.com).

### Registration Fee

Our parish is blessed to have the OLCEF so why is there an enrollment fee for Faith Formation? This is a great question. First, it is important for us all to remember the purpose of the Education Foundation here at Our Lady. Its purpose is to supplement the education of all our parishioners at the parish. So, the foundation supports adult faith formation, youth ministry, faith formation of children, and the school. The OLCEF does not receive enough money to support fully each ministry listed above. As a result, the foundation supplements each. This is why we need an enrollment fee for Faith Formation. For example, it costs about \$830 per student in Faith Formation. So, our **enrollment fee of \$75 per student or \$100.00 per family helps support the costs of each student to the parish.** This is the same expectation for the school, which has an \$800 enrollment fee, a fraction of what it costs to educate each student. The mentality, however, is the same. The OLCEF is here as a blessing to supplement the costs. In the end, the foundation helps keep the costs of these ministries/programs down for our families.

We believe that the education of our children here truly is a great investment. And we hope, that not only will you be happy with the education your child receives in Faith Formation, but that your pledge to OLCEF, in addition to the enrollment fee, will make this investment worth it.

We realize that families are busier now than ever before with a society that places endless demands on our time and resources. Here at OLC faith formation we listen to our family needs and we strive to meet our families where they are at by offering new and updating our programing.

As parents you are stewards of God's most wonderful gift- the life in Christ of your children. The parish faith formation program exists to support you in your role and it is a privilege to partner with you in the faith development of your family.

# **Policies and Procedures**

## **Attendance:**

Parents are responsible for their child's attendance to the Faith Formation programs. Since regular attendance is one important condition for the Catechetical Program to be effective, parents are urged to see to it that their child attends every class and come prepared.

1. Please notify the Faith Formation Office when your child is unable to attend class.
2. The program coordinator will contact parents/guardians when a student has two (2) consecutive absences.
3. Continued unexcused absences may require a meeting with the pastor.
4. Please sign your child into class before the bell rings so he/she is prepared to gather in the hallway for opening prayer. If you arrive after the bell rings, please stay with your child in the hallway and pray. Once prayer is completed, proceed to the classroom to sign in your child.
5. If your child does not attend school during the day due to an illness, please keep him/her home from Faith Formation to rest and recuperate.

## **Communications:**

In the case of an unscheduled special event, or change of schedule, notification will be sent home in advance through a Faith Formation email, on the parish app and our text app Remind.

- **To sign up for Elementary Faith Formation Remind (grades K-5):**
- **To sign up for Youth Ministry Remind (grades 6-12):**

## **Drop Off & Pick Up Policy:**

Parents of Elementary students are required to sign in their students upon arrival to class and to sign out their child at class dismissal. Only those individuals you have listed on your student's dismissal form will be permitted to sign out your child/children.

## **Traffic Control:**

Your child's safety is very important to us. With an average of 300 students attending on class nights, please drive slowly and carefully in the parking lots. Entrance into the church building is as follows:

**Elementary school students** please enter and exit the building at the main church entrance. No elementary student is allowed to enter or leave our building before or after classes without the escort of an adult. Students must be escorted to and from their classrooms by a parent or the adult in charge of their carpool. Sign-in and sign-out is required. Parents are asked to be punctual picking up children. The building will be secure during class times.

**Middle School students** attend youth group on Sunday afternoon at the church.

**High School students** attend youth group on Sunday afternoon at Kateri Lodge.

## **Conduct/Discipline:**

When a student fails to act in a socially acceptable and Christian manner, the Catechist/Small Group Leader is responsible for taking immediate action. If the student's personal conduct does not improve, the Catechist/Small group leader will notify the Program Coordinator who will proceed according to his/her discretion. Continued incidents of a disruptive nature will be reported to the pastor and dealt with accordingly.

## **Severe Weather Policy:**

1. If Rockford Public Schools close or dismiss early because of severe weather, all Faith Formation classes are cancelled for the remainder of the day. A “Class Cancellation” sign will be posted at all the entrance doors. In the event of severe weather the decision to cancel Faith Formation classes will be made by 3:00PM.
2. When under a “severe weather watch”, we will be monitoring conditions. Families should use their own discretion on class attendance. When under a “severe weather warning” classes will be cancelled.
3. Announcements will be made over local news stations WOOD-TV8 and WZZM-13 (listed on their websites and television stations). For WOOD-TV8 website closing listings, go to [www.woodtv.com/weather/closings](http://www.woodtv.com/weather/closings), and look under “churches”. For WZZM-13 website closing listings, go to [www.wzzm13.com/closings/](http://www.wzzm13.com/closings/), and “church/school/other” closings are all listed together. A text alert will go out on our text app, Remind.
4. Should severe weather develop during class time, students will be kept in the building until picked up by parents or until the severe weather passes.
5. Many announcements are also posted in the church bulletin and on our website at [www.olcparishrockford.com](http://www.olcparishrockford.com).

## **Medical Information:**

Student health information is kept strictly confidential. ***Please make every effort to alert us to special needs or family situations which might adversely affect a child’s ability to learn and enjoy a positive experience.*** Only those things necessary to a student’s success in the classroom are shared with the teacher. In the event of an emergency, parents will be contacted by phone at the emergency phone number provided on the student’s class registration.

## **Dispensing Medication:**

If a student is required to take prescription medication during Faith Formation class time hours a parent/guardian must be present to administer it. During middle school/high school retreats, only the program coordinators may administer medication in compliance with the following:

1. Written authorization by the parent or guardian including the name of the medication, the specific dosage and exact time the dosage is to be given, and a list of possible side effects and any restrictions.
2. The medication must be in the prescription container and must contain the physician’s name and office phone number.
3. Please refer to retreat communications for further medication procedures.

## **Accident Reports:**

If any student, teacher, parent/guardian or sibling is injured on our property, such accident must be reported immediately to the Program Coordinator and a written report filed with the Michigan Catholic Conference.

# Stewardship/Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways you can help and participate in our Faith Formation programs. Volunteers are needed at every level and with every age group. Volunteer time can be anywhere from 90 minutes a week to serving once a month, or helping with special projects and workshops. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talent with one of the opportunities listed below.

## **Elementary (Grades K-5):**

- Weekly K-5 Catechist
- Substitute Catechist
- Classroom Prep (during class time)
- Office Help (during class time)
- Childcare (during class time)
- Volunteer for Monthly Family Nights
- Good Shepherd Catechist
- First Eucharist Workshop Volunteer
- Photography for Special Events
- Service Project Coordinator
- Vacation Bible School
- Monthly Bulletin Board

## **Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12):**

- Small Group Leader
- Substitute Small Group Leader
- Special Events Photo/Videographer
- Retreat Chaperone
- Retreat Set-Up/Clean Up
- Special Events Chaperone
- Hospitality
- Mission Trip Chaperone

## **Adult/RCIA:**

- RCIA Catechist
- RCIA Sponsor
- RCIA Prayer Warrior
- RCIA Hospitality
- RCIA Team Assistant

## **Liturgical Events:**

- Lector at Mass
- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
- Altar Server
- Sacristan
- Usher
- Greeter

## **Special Events:**

- Domestic Discipleship Hospitality
- Annual OLCEF Fundraiser
- Childcare for Meetings & Studies
- Volunteer Appreciation Events
- Parish Wide Events
- Event Set up/Clean up

## **Aides to assist children/youth with special needs:**

We have a special request for aides to assist children/youth with special needs. Would you like to assist a child and be an aide in the classroom? Please contact Amy Oatley, RCIA coordinator, at 616-866-2577 ext 210 for more information.

# **Sacramental Preparation**

**If your child has not been baptized, or is older than seven years old and needs to prepare for their first Sacraments, please contact Amy Oatley at 616-866-2577 ext 210 or [aoatley@olcparish.net](mailto:aoatley@olcparish.net)**

## **Families with Special Needs:**

The *National Directory for Catechesis* reminds us that “persons with disabilities, especially children, are particularly beloved of the Lord and are integral members of the Christian community just as with each of God’s human creations, each person with a disability has catechetical needs that the Christian community must recognize and meet. All baptized persons with disabilities have a right to adequate catechesis and deserve the means to develop a relationship with God.”

We welcome all children and work with every family to identify the most appropriate opportunity for each child. The Faith Formation team has materials available for Faith Formation and Sacramental preparation for families with special needs. The Faith Formation team will assist families by providing resources for education at home as well as one-on-one time. No one is denied Faith Formation or Sacraments based on their situation. We are happy to work with everyone based on their abilities!

Please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information.

## **Sacramental Preparation:**

Preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation for children and youth at Our Lady of Consolation Parish is a comprehensive program designed to help guide young people as they continue their journey of Christian Initiation into the Church. Preparation for sacraments is not only about cognitive learning, but also about a time of spiritual preparation for the entire family.

## **Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist:**

Preparation for Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist is a **two year program and begins in the first grade**. Students will need to complete all first grade work before being placed in a second grade class. In addition to weekly classroom preparation, students and their parents will gather several times throughout the year for parent/child sessions and workshops. These mandatory events will cover additional information and activities to ensure that each child is fully prepared to celebrate the Sacraments of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist.

**The Sacramental Calendar listing all of the dates and times of these Parent/Child Sessions and Workshops can be found on the Parish website.**

## **Provisions for Both Sacraments:**

- Children must complete the first grade curriculum.
- Children must attend weekly classes.
- Parental involvement in the preparation program is essential and required.
- Readiness for the celebration for sacrament will be determined by the
- Parents, Catechist and Pastor in consultation with one another.

**If you have any questions or concerns about Reconciliation or First Eucharist, please contact Josh Hanson in the Faith Formation Office at 866-2577, ext. 211 or email: [jhanson@olcparish.net](mailto:jhanson@olcparish.net)**

## **Sacrament of Confirmation:**

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, a person completes what was begun at their Baptism. “By the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the Faith by Word and Deed.” (CCC 1285) This Sacrament is a milestone along a Catholic’s lifelong journey with Christ into an ever-deepening, maturing faith, rather than a culmination of religious formation.

At Our Lady of Consolation, **8<sup>th</sup> Grade** is considered a preparation year that consists of: **Weekly Classes** from 1-2:30pm on Sundays where they will explore and deepen their Catholic Faith and Identity, Sponsor and Candidate meetings (**Gather Sessions**) throughout the year for Sponsors and Candidates to grow in faith together (Offered on Sunday and Monday nights), and retreats offered in the Fall and Spring. **Confirmation Preparation begins with a PARENT and CANDIDATE Orientation Meeting.**

**In addition to attending ALL required sessions, Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend at least two retreats, MUST complete at least 10 service hours, and return all paperwork on time.**

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit Retreat (March 14<sup>th</sup>):** This retreat will focus in on the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Candidates will learn by playing games, listening to speakers, engaging in a large group activity with their Sponsor, and attending Mass. By attending this retreat, Candidates will gain a deeper understanding about what they will receive following Confirmation, and learn more about what it looks like to live as Catholic in the world today. **The candidate’s sponsor or parent must attend the afternoon portion of this retreat.**

If you have any questions or concerns about Confirmation, please contact Luke Grant at 866-2577, ext. 212 or email [lgrant@olcparish.net](mailto:lgrant@olcparish.net)

***For Sacrament Calendars please visit our church website: [ww.olcparishrockford.com](http://ww.olcparishrockford.com). On left side click forms and scroll down to FF calendar.***

# Elementary Faith Formation (K-5)

## **Elementary Faith Formation:**

Our program is offered on Wednesdays. Two sessions are offered from either 4:45-6 p.m. or 6:30-7:45 p.m.

## **Kindergarten Faith Formation:**

Faith Formation for Kindergarten students is offered on Wednesday at both sessions. The ***Blest Are We*** Kindergarten curriculum from Benziger is used. The year will focus on learning about all aspects of God's Love. The weekly activities touch the children's hearts with the message of Scripture and lay a firm foundation for young learners.

## **First-Fifth Grade Faith Formation:**

This year, we are introducing a brand new curriculum recently released from St. Mary's Press. To ensure that the beliefs of the Roman Catholic faith are introduced and reinforced for the young people of Our Lady as they grow, develop, and mature, the ***Discover: Finding Faith in Life*** curriculum has been chosen for grades 1-5. Second grade will continue using the **Go Seek and Find** curriculum.

The ***Discover*** curriculum uses the Bible as its core text, promoting biblical literacy and knowledge of key stories and events throughout the Old & New Testaments. The curriculum ties Scripture together with the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in an all new, engaging format for children. This curriculum is also designed to extend beyond regular Faith Formation classes and into daily family life.

Each week the students work with one lesson from the textbook. Additional activity pages, crafts, or other special projects often accompany the book work. Once a month the students will take part in a Faith in Action event.

1st-5th grade students will receive a back pack with their Bible and class materials that will be brought back and forth between home and Faith Formation.

## **Textbooks:**

Students are issued one copy of the class materials at the beginning of the year. Students are expected to bring their class materials to and from class and complete the Home Activities assigned to them. Parents are asked to see to it that students are taking responsibility for bringing the textbook or other required materials to class.

**If your child loses their class materials or Bible, it is the parent's responsibility to purchase a replacement set.**

## **Home Activities**

Catechists may send home a weekly home activity or the program coordinator may assign a chapter to be completed at home. Parents are urged to get involved with their children in these activities. Parents are encouraged to make a firm commitment to participation in the Sunday Liturgy as a family so that children may witness faith alive and active in their own home and parish. The same commitment is emphasized in regard to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on an ongoing basis.

## **Middle School Youth Ministry (6-7)**

Middle school students' grades 6-7 are invited to join us on Sunday afternoons from 1-2:30pm in the Holy Family Center.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Middle School Faith Formation program is designed to bring the youth into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ through a small group format. Using the Life Teen curriculum, each week we will explore different aspects of our Roman Catholic Faith. Our weekly focus will cover a wide range of topics including the Mass, the Blessed Mother, the Saints, vocations, current events, and social issues today's youth may face. Each night of Middle School Faith Formation will include prayer, either a game, ice breaker, or fun activity to get the youth acquainted with the topic, a talk, small group discussion, and time to grow together in fellowship.

If your middle school youth is in the 8th Grade and is planning on receiving Confirmation, please see the "Confirmation" section in the Sacramental portion of this handbook.

### **Middle School Retreats:**

**NET Retreat (December 7th, 2019):** NET Ministries is an arm of the Arch Diocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, where young Catholic adults travel around the United States to host retreats for the benefit of Catholic Youth. This year the NET team will host their "Anchored in Hope" Retreat.

*"There is no cross, big or small, in our life which the Lord does not share with us  
When storms rage, boats will rock. When you suffer, what or who is your anchor? This  
theme explores the power of being anchored in the hope of the resurrection in the midst  
of suffering."*

**Shine Youth Rally (March 2020):** Join us and other Churches from around the Diocese of Grand Rapids as we engage in a day of God and fun. Rally provides a space for middle school youth to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ through providing engaging keynote speakers, praise and worship, a youth mass, and exciting activities!

### **Other Middle School Events:**

Various social events and service project opportunities will be offered throughout the year. Please watch the bulletin and parish website for these events.

## **High School Youth Ministry (9-12)**

All high school students are invited to join us for Mass on Sundays mornings at 11:00 am. High School Youth Ministry will take place after Mass from 1-2:30 pm in Kateri Lodge.

Our High School Youth Ministry program is designed to help high school teens (grades 9-12) engage in both exciting and contemplative ways with Christ and their Catholic faith. Our goal is to help encourage the development of their Catholic faith through providing meaningful Catholic community and strong theological formation. Each month will focus on a specific theme that will be addressed through theological formation, community service, social, and worship events. Providing a broad explanation and intensive examination of that month's topic.

### **High School Retreats:**

**The Presence Kalamazoo (February 2020):** Presence is a retreat completely centered on the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. With perpetual adoration, amazing speakers, fun breakout activities, and daily Mass, this retreat helps teens become full engrossed in the presence of Christ in their lives. This year's speaker is Fr. Patrick Schultz, and will be held at Miracle Camp Retreat Center.

### **Opportunities to Serve:**

**Peer Ministry:** Peer ministry is an amazing service group that helps plan and lead HSFF lessons, assists at retreats for both high school and middle school and serve as mentors to their peers both in the high school faith formation program and at school. Peer ministry is not for the weak of heart though. This ministry requires attendance at several meetings as well as participation in several events. Please prayerfully consider the time commitment of this ministry before applying.

### **Christian Service:**

There will be several Christian Service opportunities offered throughout the year. Christian service is a very important part of our faith that we promote and encourage greatly in our High School Program.

### **Teens on a Mission:**

This year we are going to be traveling again with Alive in You Catholic Conference and Service Camps. Teens will spend days working in the local community of our host city and evenings listening to speakers. Alive in You also offers daily Mass, Reconciliation, frequent praise and worship, and a Eucharistic Adoration Service. This is a great way for Teens to encounter Christ through service, and meeting other Catholic teens from across the country. Dates and location will be announced as they are determined

### **Other High School Events:**

**Graduation Mass & Brunch (May 2020):** We will begin our celebration at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday May 19, 2019. Graduating seniors are celebrated at this amazing Mass & brunch.

Juniors are expected to help serve the seniors as well.

### **DYMO Camp**

DYMO Camp is a weeklong Catholic summer camp that is filled with the Holy Spirit. You can learn more at [www.dymo.org](http://www.dymo.org).

## **RCIA/Adult Faith Formation**

### **RCIA:**

Are you interested in deepening your relationship with Jesus Christ through the Catholic faith? Catholic Inquiry sessions take place year round. Wherever you are on your journey, we welcome your questions and invite you to join in community with others who are also exploring Catholicism.

In September, inquiry sessions will begin meeting on Thursday evenings at 7 PM.

### **Adult Faith Formation:**

WE have numerous opportunities for continued adult formation. Please check the website and bulletin boards for more information.

If you have questions, please contact Amy Oatley at 616-866-2577 ext. 210 or [aoatley@olcparish.net](mailto:aoatley@olcparish.net).

## **Domestic Discipleship**

Domestic Discipleship provides families of all ages a time and place to engage in their faith with other families. Families will gather for a monthly workshop on **the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:30 pm**. This workshop will include a potluck meal, teachings, discussions, and hands on activities. These workshops will help parishioners to understand their faith better and to deepen your relationship with Christ. As a community, families will have time to pray and learn about our faith while being present with each other.

This year, we will be using the new *Family of Faith Program* from Sophia Institute Press.

It is a supplement for regular Faith Formation classes, OLC School families, and families who choose to home school their children. For those families working at home with their children, materials from the Family of Faith program will be sent home.

For the 2019-20 year, Domestic Discipleship will focus on the Creed and what we as Catholics profess to believe. The monthly themes are:

- October: Introduction to Domestic Discipleship & the Role of Parents
- November: What is Faith, Who is God?
- January: The Immaculate Conception & Incarnation
- February: Who is Jesus Christ & the Paschal Mystery
- March: The Holy Spirit and the Church
- April: The Communion of Saints
- May: The Way of the Creed

## **For All Volunteers**

### **VIRTUS Training—Protecting God’s Children:**

Any volunteer over the age of 18 who has regular contact with children/youth must attend a Protecting God’s Children Awareness session. This training session only needs to be taken once and is good for any area you may want to volunteer with our youth. This includes youth ministry volunteers, chaperones for retreats, small group leaders, catechists, nursery workers, coaches and much more. Sessions are offered on a regular basis at various parishes in the diocese. For more information go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) or contact the Faith Formation office.

### **Background Check:**

A background check is required for all volunteers 18 years old and older.