

# Family Faith Overview

**St. Vincent de Paul's 1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Gr Faith Formation** offers a unique combination of classroom sessions and Family Faith events. Family Faith, described in detail below, is designed to help foster a deeper understanding, love and sharing of the Catholic faith for the whole family and parish community. This format promotes the family as being the most important influence in a child's faith life.

## **Part I: Spiritual Family Faith**

The following spiritual pillars of the Catholic faith are incorporated and experienced as a family in this program:

Spiritual Pillars	Description
1. Mass	<b>Mass will be at the center of the Faith Formation.</b> Because of the importance of Mass as the source and summit of our faith and to encourage greater Mass participation, classes will now be offered in connection with <i>each</i> of the three Sunday Masses.
2. Rosary	The Faith Formation year begins in October with the entire community coming together to pray the Rosary. Thereafter, faith formation families will pray one decade of the Rosary just before Mass on Sunday. Our Blessed Mother explained that the great Miracle of the Sun at Fatima happened so that all would believe her messages. She has directed us that the Rosary must be prayed every day. Through the Rosary, hearts and minds will be opened to listen to truth and act in truth so that peace will be obtained in our homes and in the world.
3. Eucharistic Adoration	In January, families will begin the New Year with a Eucharistic Adoration session. Father Richard will provide a catechesis on Eucharist Adoration and lead us all in adoring Jesus through prayer, song and quiet meditation. This is an important opportunity to contemplate the amazing gift Jesus gives of himself in the Eucharist to each one of us.
4. Confession	It is a Church precept to come to Confession at least once a year and anytime one is aware of being in a state of Mortal Sin. As part of the Faith Formation program, families are invited to come to Confession during Lent.
5. Stations of the Cross	Families are asked to participate in one Lenten Friday evening Stations of the Cross.
6. Divine Mercy Sunday	Saint Pope John Paul II instituted this important feast day in the year 2000. Jesus told Saint Faustina, <i>"The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of my mercy"</i>

## **Part II: Learning & Fellowship Family Faith**

Parents are asked to accompany their child(ren) along with other families in the parish community, and enjoy lunch and fellowship while engaging in an all ages faith learning experience. Families are asked to participate in approximately two sessions each year:

Family Grades	Description for 2018-19
<b>1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Families</b>	<b>Advent Session:</b> "The Mass"
<b>1<sup>st</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade Families</b>	<b>Lent Session:</b> "The Last Four Things"
<b>6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Families</b>	<b>Theology of the Body:</b> This session seeks to lay a very important foundation for sixth & seventh graders of Catholic values that recognize the sacred dignity of themselves and others. The following ideas will be addressed ... <i>"Who am I (my gifts, both spiritual and physical)...God has a plan for me...Intellect and Free will....My body expresses my soul...How do I use my body (my gifts) to glorify God and to love and respect others...."</i> Modesty in dress will also be touched upon as well as the importance of avoiding tv shows and music that are degrading to the human person. This session will also open up an important dialogue on Catholic morality between a parent and their 6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup> grade child. Parents will have a wonderful opportunity to affirm their child in the positive values and God given gifts he/she is developing.