

St. Mary of the Woods St. Aloysius Family Faith Formation

Philosophy - The family is a model of the church

We at St. Mary of the Woods and St. Aloysius are committed to the spiritual growth of each individual and the support of families as the privileged place for experiencing God's love. Our goal is to support parents in their role as primary educators of their children with appropriate catechetical material, time and the space to fulfill this God given right and responsibility. In the family setting children learn love, patience and Christian virtues in dealing with others. They also learn the importance of Faith, prayer and community as well as the importance of prayer and spending time with the Scripture. In essence your children will take on your Faith, attitudes and habits. The family is a model of Church and a model of the community of the Trinity. You and your children will spend approximately an hour each week focusing on Faith Formation. Compared to the time they spend with the family outside of this, this time is minimal. The time spent with the Faith Formation material is time set aside to intentionally learn the ways of our Catholic Faith as interpreted by you the parents. It is up to you as parents to show them these things at work in your everyday family life. Along with regular attendance and participation at Mass, one of the most important things you can do is spend time in prayer with your children. Everyday life presents plenty of opportunities to revisit and reinforce what is covered in the Faith Formation program.

In a culture that is at times openly hostile to families and the role of parents, we are here to support you and your family in your role as the primary educators of your children in the ways of our Catholic Faith. In the Final Report of the Synod of Bishops to the Holy Father, Pope Francis on The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World the Synod stated in article 67 that *"In different cultures, the adults of the family retain an irreplaceable role in the upbringing of children. However, in many areas, we are witnessing a progressive weakening of the role of parents in raising their children, because of an invasive presence of the media within the family, as well as a tendency to delegate or outright relinquish their role to third parties. ... This requires the Church to encourage and support families in their efforts vigilantly and responsibly to participate in the educational programmes affecting their children and in their formation. The Synod unanimously restated that the primary school of formation is the family and that the Christian community is engaged in the support and integration of this irreplaceable formative role. Places and times for families to meet need to be determined to encourage the training of parents and the sharing of experiences among families. Parents, as the first teachers and witnesses of faith for their children, need to be actively involved in their preparation for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation."* It is our goal to assist you in this as best we can.



Attendance

Faith Formation for grades 1-3 with their parents will be on Sundays starting at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary of the Woods. Families will go directly to their meeting rooms to begin the lessons. Parents should work together to encourage sharing from all those in attendance while being sensitive to those who are not comfortable to do so. See *Tips for Parents while Leading a Session for ideas*.

Faith Formation for grades 4-5 will take place on Sundays starting at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary of the Woods. This session will be led by a catechist, parents need not attend.

Sacraments

As per Diocesan norms children wishing to receive the sacraments must be active in Church (weekly attendance at Sunday Liturgy) and Family Faith Formation at least 3 years before receiving the Sacraments. Preparation for the Sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and First Holy Communion will be covered by a catechist in regular Formation sessions. Reconciliation will be covered in the 1st Grade and received in the spring of 2nd Grade. Confirmation will be covered in 2nd Grade and Communion in 3rd Grade with the reception of the Sacraments during the Easter Season.

Scheduled Breaks

Family Faith Formation will not meet on Thanksgiving Weekend, during Christmas or Spring Break.

Bad Weather

Sessions will be cancelled if roads are not safe to travel. If there are any questions contact Bob at 258-2752.



Parents Guidelines for Leading Catechism Discussion

- ❖ **Stick to the assigned lesson and reading.** Once finished you can do other things such as puzzles, Bible Stories, etc. We come together during this time to study and share our experiences and understandings of common teachings.
- ❖ **Encourage participation from all the children and adults, but do not force participation.** It takes some a little more time to feel comfortable in the group than others so encourage participation and sharing from everyone but do not force or embarrass anyone.
- ❖ **Do not dominate the class time.** We have a unique opportunity to share our Faith and how we experience it in our families, so make sure to take turns among the children and parents to allow them an opportunity to lead and share.
- ❖ **Probing questions.** When covering discussion questions, encourage the kids to give detailed answers. Use yes and no questions only to help them open up, then ask why, when, how, etc.
- ❖ **Use your time wisely.** We will try our best to finish class on time but we do like to make sure we set a good foundation for the lesson, wrap things up and answer questions. We will try to allow ample time to cover the material thoroughly in the small groups and that means we need to start on time.

**St. Mary of the Woods/St. Aloysius
Family Faith Formation
Registration Information**

Student Name: _____

Family Address: _____

Contact phone: _____

Grade this year: _____

I understand that the Family Faith Formation program of St. Mary of the Woods and St. Aloysius is a FAMILY based program designed to encourage the Faith formation and growth of all family members. By nature this program requires the participation of all the family members at all scheduled Faith Formation meetings and a concerted effort to establish a Faith Formation time at home to work together in completing the weekly lessons.

By enrolling in this program we commit ourselves to:

- **Weekly attendance at scheduled Faith Formation sessions**
- **Reading Scripture and praying together at home**
- **Attendance and participation in Sunday Liturgy**

To be eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion a parent or legal guardian must be in attendance at the Family Faith Formation sessions and no more than three absences are allowed (this does not include snow days when regular sessions are cancelled).

Signed: _____
(Parents or guardians)

Please verify this information and make any corrections and return this form at the Family Faith Formation session. Thank you.

**The 2018 Family Faith Formation program begins on Sunday,
October 6 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary of the Woods.**

**MEDICAL TREATMENT RELEASE
PUBLICITY CONSENT
FORM**

To Whom it May Concern:

As a parent/guardian I do hereby authorize the treatment by a qualified and licensed Medical Doctor in an emergency which, in the opinion of the attending physician, may endanger his/her life, cause disfigurement, physical impairment, or undue discomfort if delayed. This authority is granted only after a reasonable effort has been made to reach me.

Name of Minor: _____ Relationship to you: _____

Reason for which release is intended: St. Mary of the Woods/St. Aloysius Faith Formation

Address of Minor: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency Phone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Family Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

List allergies, medication, contacts, or other pertinent comments:

Allergies: _____

Medications: _____

Comments/Other: _____

Health Insurance Data:

Company: _____ Policy: _____

Group: _____ Contract: _____

I further authorize the person who presents the minor to sign the Acknowledgment of Receipt of Notice of Privacy Rights that may be presented by the physician or health care facility. This authorization is completed and signed of my own free will with the sole purpose of authorizing medical treatment deemed necessary and appropriate by the treating physician.

PUBLICITY CONSENT

As parent/guardian of the student named above, I understand that promotional pictures and videos (individual and group) may be taken during this event. I give permission for my child's picture, name, age, comments, parish/school and city, to be used for news and promotional materials (including, but not limited to, print, web pages, calendars, power point, audio, video, broadcast, etc.) for the Diocese of Gaylord and St. Mary of the Woods & St. Aloysius Parishes.

This authorization is completed and signed of my own free will with the sole purpose of authorizing medical treatment deemed necessary and appropriate by the treating physician.

Date: _____ Signed: _____
(Parent or Guardian)