

Pastoral Council

September 4, 2024

Faith Formation



This year's theme: Unravel the Mystery

- Every three years, we center our curriculum on Salvation History—the story of God's people from Creation to Revelation and what that means for us today
- This year, we'll "Unravel the Mystery" of God's great plan for us

Family-Centered Elementary Faith Formation Program

- We begin Year 2 of our Family-Centered program with our kickoff on September 22!
- Parents and kids learn and pray together and bring discussion and prayer about their faith all the way home and into their daily lives, with the ultimate goal of building lifelong, faithful, faith-filled Catholics.
- Happening most Sundays between the Masses
- Last year's enrollment was 72 kids in 50 families, and we're nearing that for this year, with over two weeks to go until kickoff

Middle School Youth Ministry

- Combined program with Assumption, which allows Christine and Kathy Russell to collaborate, and allows the teens to experience Youth Ministry with their school friends
- Sunday evenings in the social hall & parish center classrooms
- Whole group lesson in the social hall followed by break-outs into their grade-level groups in the classrooms
- Enrollment is approaching last year's, about 50 from the two parishes

High School Youth Ministry

- Melissa Kato is our new High School Youth Minister
- Our high school programs are also combined with Assumption, so Melissa and Kathy will collaborate
- Sunday night small faith groups meet in the south wing in 9th/10th and 11th/12th grade groups
- The Outreach Team is still deciding on a trip location for next year. Their first informational meeting is next week
- The Youth 2 Youth Retreat Team informational meeting was last night. They have seven teens registered to be on Team so far.

Adult Faith Formation

- Watch the bulletin, Eva, and website for information about our Bible Study groups, *The Chosen*, cemetery pilgrimage, nature walk, Laidback Book Club, a rosary-themed garden pole to create, and more.
- Christy Granda will be running the OCIA (RCIA) program this year. She's excited to walk with our new Catholics on their faith journeys.

Family Fun Events

- Family Fun Events are open to parishioners of all ages. You don't have to be a young family to come—all are invited!
- Watch for the return of Game Night, the Art Show, and our Advent Wreath Making and Lent Events.
- New this year: Trivia Night and an All Souls Event

Sacraments

- First Reconciliation prep will begin in October with kids celebrating the sacrament at their retreat in December
- First Eucharist prep will begin in February with a retreat in April and First Eucharist Masses in May.
- Confirmation prep begins this year with a year of discernment for our 6th graders. They'll begin their first of two years of Confirmation classes in their 7th grade year, using the *Purpose* curriculum by LifeTeen. We'll collaborate with Assumption on this program, as we do for our Youth Ministry program. Christine has written a very detailed description of the program that you can find on our website at <https://www.blessed-midland.org/faith-formation/confirmation/>