

ST. MARY PARISH

Franklin, Massachusetts

150 Years of Grace 1877-2027

May 31, 2026

Dear Families of St. Mary Parish,

Peace be with you!

One of the greatest joys of being a pastor is seeing faith come alive in the lives of families. There is something beautiful about watching a child learn a prayer for the first time, seeing parents and grandparents share their faith, or hearing a family talk about how God is working in their lives. These moments remind us that faith was never meant to stay within the walls of the church. Faith is something meant to be lived, shared, and passed on from one generation to the next.

That is why I am excited to share with you a new chapter in the life of St. Mary Parish through our new Family Faith Formation program. I'm grateful to Jim Flanagan, our Family Faith Formation Director and the Family Faith Formation advisory board who have worked so hard in creating a new Faith Formation program, not just for a few but for the entire parish, the whole family, children and adults.

For many years, our religious education program has helped form countless children and families in the faith. We are incredibly grateful for the catechists, volunteers, and parents whose dedication has made such a difference in the lives of so many. As we continue moving forward, we also recognize something very important that the Church has always taught: parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith for their children. That's why we believe it is important to include all adult parishioners in our new program.

Our new Family Faith Formation program is meant to strengthen that partnership between the parish and the home. Faith formation is about much more than attending a class once a week. We want to help create opportunities for families to encounter Christ together and to make faith a natural part of everyday life.

This new approach will include engaging learning experiences, opportunities for families to gather and pray together, and resources to support parents as they guide their children in faith. We know life today can be busy and sometimes even overwhelming. Our goal is not to add another thing to your schedule, but to walk with you and support you in your family's journey of faith.

Community is an important aspect of our new program. As a community we break bread together spiritually at the altar of the Eucharist. It is also important as a community to have an opportunity to break bread together enjoying a simple family meal while deepening our faith lives. We believe children learn faith not simply by hearing about it, but by seeing it lived. They see it when families pray together, when they worship together at Mass, when the break bread together, when kindness and forgiveness are practiced at home, and when parents and loved ones do their best to follow Jesus in everyday life.

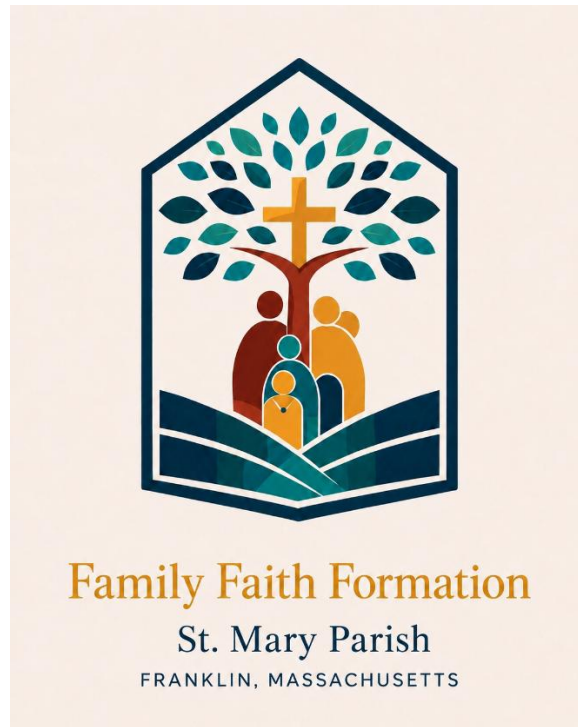
As we begin this new journey, I invite you to approach it with excitement and open hearts. Together we have an opportunity not only to help our children grow in faith, but also to strengthen the faith of our entire parish family.

In order for us to have a clear understanding of the New Family Faith Formation Program I invite you and your family to join us on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00P.M. in the Sacred Heart Hall for a Wine and Cheese gathering.

Please keep this ministry in your prayers, and know that I keep all of you and your families in mine. I look forward to walking this journey together as we continue growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bless you and your families abundantly.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Bob
Pastor
St. Mary Parish
Franklin, Massachusetts



Vision Statement

To be a vibrant, Christ-centered community in Franklin where the joy of the Holy Spirit unites all generations in a journey of lasting, Eucharistic faith.

Mission Statement

The Formal Foundation We, the Family Faith Formation community of St. Mary Parish, exist to nurture and strengthen the Domestic Church as a school of Christian life. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and sustained by the Eucharist and the Sacraments, we dedicate our unique gifts to the ongoing faith development of our children, youth, and adults, as well as to unchurched individuals seeking a new home.

Motivated by the Word of God, social justice, and a commitment to our Baptismal call and the mission of Christ's Church, we pledge:

- **To empower parents** as the primary educators and protagonists of their family's spiritual growth, providing the resources to make the home a vibrant Domestic Church where faith is lived, shared, and passed on.
- **To foster a universal welcome** that serves and unites the community regardless of background, meeting every person exactly where they are on their spiritual path.
- **To cultivate a joyful environment** rooted in a shared community experience, recognizing that discipleship is formed when we are on the journey together.
- **To engage all generations** in relational ministry and intergenerational mentorship, ensuring a lifelong and authentic encounter with Jesus Christ.

- **To live as thankful, Eucharistic and evangelistic witnesses** in the Town of Franklin, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and embracing the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) to go, make disciples of all nations, and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all we meet.

Family Faith Formation

2026-2027

Time Line

- + May, June, July and August – Advertising – Getting folks on board
- + Sunday, July 19th and Tuesday August 4th – Tentative Dates for Mock Sessions
- + September – Wine and Cheese Gatherings
- + October – Opening Mass, Dinner and Concert
- + November – Jesus as
- + December – Advent and the Christmas Season
- + January – Jesus as
- + February – Lenten Season
- + March – Jesus as
- + April – Easter Season Celebration
- + May – Closing Celebration

(friend, teacher or preacher, healer, Savior, Son of God, as the way)

Format

2 Hours – Dinner, Opening Prayer and Introduction to theme, breakout sessions or family session, closing prayer experience

Four Week Schedule:

- + Week One – Family Faith Formation Session
 - Saturday after the 4:00 p.m. Mass (Kids Track)
 - Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. Mass (Special Needs and Kids track)

- Sunday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass
- Tuesday starting at 5:30 p.m.

+ Week Two – Christian Service

+ Week Three – Sacramental Preparation and Youth Ministry

+ Week Four – Family Masses

Resources:

+ NCCL

+ EQ Saints

+ Lectionary

Dreams

+ Sunday evening Mass on first Sunday of the month

+ Multi-generational (families and singles with no children)

+ Kids Room - Mia

+ Disabilities

Family Faith Formation Sessions Schedule

	Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.	Saturday at 5:00 p.m.	Sunday at 11:30 a.m.	Sunday at 6:00 p.m.
October				
November	11/3	11/7	11/8	11/8
December	12/1	12/5	12/6	12/6
January	1/5	1/9	1/10	1/10
February	2/2	2/6	2/7	2/7
March	3/2	3/6	3/7	3/7
April	4/6	4/3	4/4	4/4

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Session Schedule – Grade 1 & 2

	Monday from	Tuesday from	Thursday from
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	4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.	4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.	4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
October	10/19	10/20	10/22
November	11/16	11/17	11/19
December	12/14	12/15	12/17
January	1/25	1/19	1/21
February	2/22	2/23	2/25
March	3/15	3/16	3/18
April	4/12	4/13	4/15

Confirmation Preparation Program Schedule – Grade 7 & 8

	Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.	Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.
October	10/21	10/22
November	11/18	11/19
December	12/16	12/17
January	1/20	1/21
February	2/24	2/25
March	3/17	3/18
April	4/14	4/15

Family Mass Schedule – Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass

10/25 – 11/22 – 12/20 – 1/24 – 2/28 – 3/21 – 4/25

Christian Service Opportunities

TBA

Other Important Dates

Family Faith Formation Grand Opening Celebration – October 3rd and 4th

Indigenous People’s Day – Monday, October 12th

Sacrament of Confirmation – Saturday, October 24th – 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Veteran’s Day – Tuesday, November 11th

**Global Celebration of Young People (Feast of Christ the King) –
Weekend of November 21st and 22nd**

Thanksgiving – November 26th

Christmas Break – December 24th until January 4th

Martin Luther King Day – Monday, January 18th

Sacrament of Reconciliation Workshops – January 30th and January 31st

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Monday, February 1st

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 10th

February Vacation – February 14th to February 20th

Palm Sunday – March 21st

Triduum – March 25th to March 27th

Good Friday, March 26th

Easter – Sunday, March 28th

First Eucharist Workshops – April 10 and April 11th

April Vacation – April 18th to April 24th

Patriots Day (Marathon) – Monday, April 19th

First Eucharist Masses – Saturday, May 1st

Ministries That Parishioners Are Welcome To Be Part Of

FFF Board

Coordinating Team – made up of all the chairs of the individual ministries – meet once a month as a team – keep director updated

Christian Service – Monthly opportunity – work with other agencies in the parish, town, Archdiocese of Boston, Catholic Charities

Food – Shoppers, Meal Planners, Cooks, Set-up and Clean-up Crew, paper products, beverages, talk to caterers

Registration- Set-up Registration – Keeping Records (including hard copies), making sure all correct forms are in

Volunteer Coordinator – registering, CORI and VIRTUS, list of names, emails and cell phone numbers for each committee)

Up to Kinder – Room set-up, one activity about the topic, snacks and drinks, toys and games

Grades 1 – 4 – Content Design and Facilitators – Small Group Leaders – order supplies for sessions

Grades 5 – 8 - Content Design and Facilitators – Small Group Leaders – order supplies for sessions

High School - Content Design and Facilitators – Small Group Leaders – order supplies for sessions

Adults - Content Design and Facilitators – Small Group Leaders – order supplies for sessions

Home Kits – Meet monthly for with the Coordinating Team – Research – Outline for each kit – order supplies

Prayer Team – Meet weekly for prayer – in person or on Zoom – (Rosary or Adoration) – plan the large group prayer moments

Families with Children with Disabilities - Content Design and Facilitators – Small Group Leaders – order supplies for sessions

Family Masses – 2nd Week of each month – work with the clergy – monthly give away – refreshments – one

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist Team - All records up to date (baptism) before and after

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Preparation Program – All records up to date (baptism, reconciliation, eucharist) before and after – Team – two days

High School Confirmation Preparation Program - All records up to date (baptism, reconciliation, eucharist) before and after – team – one day

Middle School Youth Ministry – adult/youth team – monthly gathering – Christian Service Opps – mission trips

High School Youth Ministry – adult/youth team – monthly gathering – Christian Service Opps – mission trips

Set-up/Clean-up – work with coordinating team

Role of High School Young People - Small group leaders for all grades

Role of a Dean College Students – small group leaders for high school and middle school

Fundraising -

Decoration Committee – Based on the theme – the main room will be decorated

Hospitality Ministry – Welcoming – passes out home kits at the end

Opening Session – Outdoor Mass, Cookout, Speaker/Musician

Special Events – Advent, Lent, Pentecost

Each Committee

- Chair
- Job Description
- Time Commitment
- Asking for one year commitment



***FAMILY
FAITH FORMATION
INCLUDES:***



**Forming Lifelong
Relationship with Christ**

**Sharing Catholic
Truths and Traditions**

**Teaching Prayer and
the Sacraments**

**Engagement on the
Mission of the Church**



WHY FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NOW?

It is not about knowing who Jesus is, it is about encountering Him

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