

# Introducing *FAMILY FORMATION* for FALL 2017!

## **What is *Family Formation*?**

*Family Formation* is a unique family catechesis program which promotes parents as the primary educators of their children in the Catholic Faith. Through lessons, games, quizzes, stories, and music, solid Catholic teaching is transmitted, and the Faith is brought to life within the family.

## **Why *Family Formation*?**

By evangelizing parents to realize what the Church is asking of them, and giving them support and encouragement in their mission, we are answering the Church's call.

## **How does *Family Formation* work?**

Families (children & parents) gather for age-appropriate catechesis on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Children will attend classes assigned by their grade level in school, while parents will gather as a large group. During this session, the parents will also receive a packet with three additional lessons (including all handouts, activities, and other necessities) to use for the next three weeks in the family setting. The materials are engaging, down-to-earth, and easy to understand. *Family Formation* is meant to bring the family together once a week to learn the Faith—at flexible times that allow families more quality time together.

## **What about Sacramental Preparation?**

Baptized students in the 2nd Grade will automatically be placed in our Sacramental Preparation program. Parents and catechists will spend the year in specific preparation to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Non-baptized children in grades 3-6 will also be assigned a specific class.

## **Will catechists also receive catechesis and training?**

Yes! Catechists will gather monthly to receive spiritual formation and specific training pertaining to teaching the upcoming lesson as well as receiving specialized training for certification.

## **Is this program approved in our Diocese?**

Yes! Sacred Heart is currently one of seven parishes who have or will have implemented *Family Formation* in this diocese. Our own Bishop Olson has encouraged all priests to consider using some type of family formation in their parishes. In January of 2007, *Family Formation* was granted the imprimatur by Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. In addition, *Family Formation* has successfully completed the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Review for Accuracy and Consistency and is the recipient of the 2012 "New Wineskins" Award from the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership for extraordinary achievement in evangelization and catechesis.

## **What do others say about *Family Formation*?**

"Our parents are so pleased with the content and format and our children cannot wait until our next *Family Formation* night! My pastor and I are so impressed that this program strictly follows the guidelines of the Church. I have never seen such a program that is as solid in our Catholic teachings."

"*Family Formation* has increased the frequency of our discussion of the Faith as a family and in our home. It has deepened my understanding of the Catholic Faith and increased our comfort level in speaking about it. Having memory verses and projects hanging in our home has increased the visibility of our Catholic Faith."

"I get to learn, re-learn, and reinforce the Catholic teaching for myself (seriously—I get as much out of it as they do.) My kids are in Catholic school, but by also doing these weekly lessons at home, and the discussion they bring about—both at the time of the lesson and other spontaneous times—are a great way for our family to bond through learning together, and it sets a great example for when my kids have kids of their own. What I mean is that while I am the leader of the lessons, oftentimes the kids and I are on an even playing field when we are doing the lesson, so it gives them a chance to have a grown-up discussion about what they think, what they know, and what they have learned in the past...seriously great discussions that would not take place were it not for doing the *Family Formation* lessons together."