

## Required Meetings

In addition to our Family Gatherings there is one meeting held strictly for our Family Faith Formation Families.

- Initial Formation/Orientation Meeting — will be held after the 5:00pm mass on Saturday, September 17, 2011 and after the 9:00am mass on Sunday, September, 18, 2011. At this meeting:
  - Families will receive their initial packets.
  - Resources in the lesson packet will be covered.
  - Methods for conducting home study sessions will be suggested.
  - Families will have an opportunity to share questions and concerns.

\* **Check with the Faith Formation Office after September 21, for the final list of events, dates, and times.**

For further information or to obtain registration materials, please contact the St. Patrick Faith Formation Office at (715) 386-9209.

*St. Patrick Catholic Community*



## Family Faith Formation

Church of St. Patrick

## A Process of Coming Together



## An Intergenerational Alternative to Classroom Religious Formation

The Church has always taught and affirmed that the parents are the primary faith teachers of their children. As a parish we believe that the family is the preeminent setting for the faith formation of a child. We also recognize that faith formation is a lifelong process that includes all family members and most especially parents.

At the Baptism of their baby, the parish community promises to support the parents in raising their child as a Christian. The primary way that the community realizes its promise is through conducting religious instruction, formation, or catechesis. The community can and does do this in a variety of settings.

At St. Patrick, we are able to offer families an opportunity to share their faith “family style” in a flexible, structured, and supportive environment.

## **Basic Method**

Lessons are provided for families to break open the upcoming Sunday readings, share reflections, activities, crafts, service projects, and prayer. They have full access to books, videos, and other materials available through the Faith Formation Office. Lessons run from the last half of September through the first part of May.

Families participating in Family Faith Formation are responsible for providing the Faith Formation Office with the appropriate documentation of their progress at various points throughout the year. Participation records are maintained for any children who have not completed their Christian initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).

## **An Overview of the Process**

### **Family Covenant**

Each family participating in Family Faith Formation is asked to complete and sign a copy of the family covenant. This signifies that both the parish faith community and the family are serious about their commitment and that we will work together.

### **Family Lesson Materials**

Periodically families receive a packet of reflection sheets for the next set of Sunday readings. Families also receive monthly mailings that include additional family materials. Families show their commitment to the program by turning in a progress report or by keeping a family journal of their faith sharing experiences. These are to be turned in quarterly at a family event, through the mail, the collection basket, or via email.

## **Family Service Projects**

Each family is expected to participate in two service projects throughout the year. A list of opportunities is available on the parish web site but is not meant to limit creativity in finding ways to help in the parish and community. Families fill out a simple feedback form and turn it in when their service project reaches a natural point for reflection.

## **Family Gatherings**

In an effort to keep family calendars simplified we try to schedule our Family Faith Formation gathered activities at times that are family friendly. Whether we gather for a simple teaching, a service project or a potluck dinner, part of the experience generally includes an intergenerational presentation.

Family gatherings provide families with time for:

- Building community by connecting with the parish
- Networking with other families involved in Family Faith Formation
- Connecting with other families and friends in our parish who are also invited to attend
- Nourishing their own faith through planned activities
- Asking questions and giving input into the Family Faith Formation process

These gatherings are focused on Family Formation but are open to the entire parish.

Attendance by Family Faith Formation families at a minimum of three the gatherings is expected.

Additional lesson materials will be available at various family gatherings for those attending or will be available following the gathering in the boxes immediately outside the Parish Library at church.