

Faith Formation Handbook



2023-2024

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Dear Families,

Welcome to Faith Formation 2023-2024!

This handbook has been prepared for you to help find information easier and become better acquainted with the program. Hopefully it accomplishes this!

For information on programs and preparation for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, please refer to the Sacramental Preparation Handbook.

The success of our program highly depends on the help and support of families and the Catechist and aides that volunteer their time to teach and form the children in their Catholic Faith. We thank all of you for everything that you do!

Sincerely,

Monica and Jamie

Contact Information:

Coordinator of Faith Formation, Monica Beck

Office Phone Number: (301)777-1750, ext. 111

Cell Phone Number: (240)727-9745

Email: mbeck@archbalt.org

Coordinator of Adult and Youth Ministry, Jamie Imes

Office Phone Number: (301)777-1750, ext. 112

Cell Phone Number: (240) 920-7817

Email: Jamie.imes@archbalt.org

Facebook: OLM Faith Formation

Inclement Weather Phone Number: (301)245-6524

Class cancellations will also be posted on OLM Faith Formation Facebook page.

2023– 2024 Calendar

Faith Formation classes are held Sunday morning at St. Mary from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

September 2023



- September 10: Catechist Morning
- September 17: Parish Picnic
Marydale, 11:30—5:00
- September 24: Commissioning—9:00 Mass/Class

October 2023



- October 1: Class/ Food Collection/Donut Sunday
- October 8: Class
- October 15: Class
- October 22: Class
- October 29: Class

November 2023



- November 5: Class/ Food Collection/Donut Sunday
- November 12: Class
- November 19: Class
- November 26: No Class/ Thanksgiving

2023-2024 Calendar

December 2023



December 3: Class/ Food Collection/Donut Sunday

December 10: Class

December 17: CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 24 & 31: No Class/Christmas & New Year

January 2024



January 7: Catechist Morning/No Class

January 14: Class

January 21: Class

January 28: Class

February 2024



February 4: Class/ Food Collection/Donut Sunday

February 11: Class

February 18: Class

February 25: Class

2023-2024 Calendar

March 2024



| | |
|------------------|--|
| March 3: | Class/ Food Collection/Donut Sunday |
| March 10: | Class |
| March 17: | Class |
| March 24: | Class |
| March 31: | No Class/Easter |

April 2024



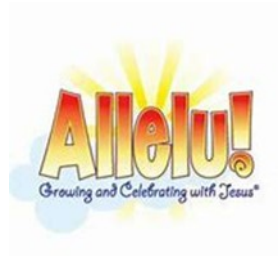
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| April 7: | Class/ Food Collection/Donut Sunday |
| April 14: | Class |
| April 21: | Class |
| April 28: | End of Year Family Celebration |

Vacation Bible School 2024: June 17 - June 21



Faith Formation Curriculums:

Pre-School (Ages 3 & 4): Allelu by Our Sunday Visitor



“Growing and Celebrating with Jesus” - Allelu is a Christ-centered early childhood program that uses unique, multi-sensory learning techniques to engage the children in learning about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Faith. Each Sunday, the children will bring home a child/ family activity sheet that is designed like a placemat for the dinner table. It includes a note for parents/guardians on what your child learned and some activities to reinforce the lesson at home throughout the week.

Elementary: Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, Grades K-5



The Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Curriculum connects catechetical lessons to Sunday Mass with the Sunday Gospel being the heart of each lesson. Each student will receive a lesson booklet, that is different each week, and a catechism handbook that are both at age appropriate levels. The catechism handbook is titled, “What the Church Believes and Teaches.” The titles of the booklets are as follows:

Grades K-1: *Promise*

Grades 2-3: *Good News*

Grades 4-5: *Venture*

Faith Formation Curriculums:

Middle School: Edge from Lifeteen, Grades 6, 7, 8



The goal of this program for middle-school youth is to lead them closer to Jesus Christ and the Church while growing their understanding and knowledge of their Catholic Faith. The sessions are done in a Youth Group format with semester themes and engaging, relevant topics.

High School (Grade 9): Chosen: This is Your Catholic Faith by Ascension Press



This program takes teens on a journey through their entire Catholic Faith. The lessons are structured through DVD (presentations are done by 12 top youth experts in the Church today), workbook and classroom discussions. This is a perfect pre-Confirmation curriculum leading up to the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

High School (Grade 10): Decision Point - Part One by Dynamic Catholic



Decision Point begins the path towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. The first part of the school year, lessons are covered from part of the curriculum. In January, the second part is covered in the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The format is DVD presentations by Matthew Kelly, author, founder of Dynamic Catholic and renowned international speaker, followed by group discussions

Faith Formation Curriculums:

Faith Formation Program Focus 2023/2024:

Family Incorporating more family involvement events/activities

Service Providing several service opportunities for families and students

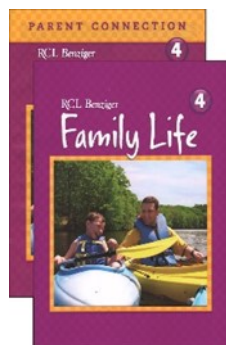
Eucharist We are in a Parish and Archdiocesan wide Eucharistic Revival! We'll provide opportunities to deepen our love and appreciation for the Eucharist.

Worthy of the Call: Youth Volunteer and Child Protection Training, Ages 14-18

This video-assisted, discussion training, developed by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, is required for all youth, ages 14-18, before volunteering or serving in the Church. The goals of this program are to help keep our youth safe and help them engage in healthy, and meaningful ministry in the Church. This program is incorporated into the High School Curriculum.

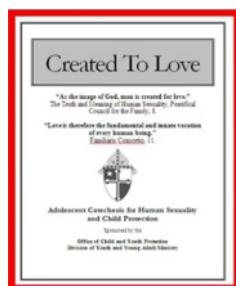
Family Life Curriculum:

Grades K-8 - Benzinger Family Life Series



As part of the elementary and middle school curriculum and as required by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Benzinger Family Life Series is used in our program. The sessions are covered during the months of January and February. This series focuses on God's gifts of family, self, life, love and community. Child protection is also covered and discussed in age appropriate manners. In grades five and six, the human reproduction segment is sent home to the parent/guardian.

High School - Created to Love



As part of the high school curriculum and as required by the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Created to Love series is used in our program. This program focuses on healthy relationships and an understanding of the need of a family environment of love, virtue and respect for the gifts of God. Child protection is also covered and discussed in an age appropriate manner. The Created to Love course is taught every two years either in two class sessions or four class sessions.

2023 – 2024 Faith Formation Team

Pre-School:

Julie McCormick

**YA's - Annalynne Brady,
Hannah Piasecki**

Kindergarten/

First Grade:

Amanda Davis, Alice McCullough

YA—Ava Davis

Second/ Third Grade:

Denise Lowery, Liz Miller

Fourth Grade:

Kristie Wilhelm

Fifth Grade:

Debbie Harris

Middle School Team:

**Anthony Joseph, Jacqui Launer,
Jeff Loar, Mandy Sturtz**

Ninth Grade:

**Alex Dignan, Emily Jackson,
Debbie Treadwell**

Tenth Grade/

Confirmation:

Mark Dignan

YA's—Lily Riley

Duncan Stangel



Classroom Locations for 2023-2024

Pre-School

Faith Formation Center Porch- first floor

Grades K—5

Office Center

Grades 6-8

Social Hall

Grade 9

Faith Formation Center Porch—second floor

Grade 10

Office Center



Policies and Procedures:

Arrival:

PLEASE NOTE:

9:00 a.m. Mass dismissal will be occurring between 10:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Please be mindful of pedestrian traffic and follow the one-way entrance to St. Mary Church parking lot from A Street, and the one-way exit onto Grand Avenue.



For teens and older children, you may pull up to the sidewalk, directly behind the Faith Formation Center and the Office Center, on Prince Georges Street. There is a gate that leads to steps and a ramp behind the building. They can take those and come around to the front entrances.

Dismissal:

Faith Formation dismissal time is 11:30 a.m. Please abide by the following:

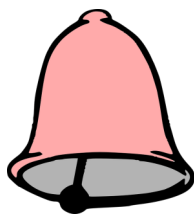
For Pre-school to Grade 5, please come into the Office Center building or Faith Formation Center to the classroom to get your child/children.

Policies and Procedures:

Pre-school to Grade 5, cont.:

Catechists will not let the child leave until a parent/guardian or appropriate person is present (Those listed on the Faith Formation registration form).

For Grades 6 to High School, they may meet you in the parking lot. If you would like your child/children dismissed in another way, please put that in writing and give to your child's teacher.



Handicap Access:

St. Mary Church – Side Door facing A street

St. Mary Social Hall – Lower level door to left of steps in front of Church

OLM Office Center – Side door facing Grand Avenue

Faith Formation Center – Ramp and door in back of building

Policies and Procedures:

Security/Locked Doors:

The following is the schedule for locking and unlocking doors:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. | Front doors of OLM Office Center, OLM Faith Formation Center, and Social Hall unlocked for Faith For- mation Teachers |
| 8:50 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | During Mass, all exterior doors of all buildings will be locked. |
| 10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. | All exterior doors except for the back door, will be unlocked and monitored for Faith Formation Class arrival. |
| At 10:20 a.m. | All exterior doors, except for the front doors of the OLM Office Cen- ter, will be locked during Faith For- mation Class time. If you come early to pick up your child, please come in through the front door of the Office Center. |
| At 11:25 a.m. | All locked doors will be unlocked and monitored at dismissal time. |

Policies and Procedures:

Attendance:

We understand that there are different family dynamics and many of our families travel and juggle busy schedules.

If there are known personal or family circumstances in which your child/children will be absent for prolonged periods of time, please inform the Faith Formation Coordinator.

We want to assist you and work with you on what suits best for your families faith formation.



Classroom Rules and Cell Phone Usage:

It is suggested that students, in conjunction with the catechist and aide make their own classroom rules and that they are written down and posted in the classroom.

Policies and Procedures:

Classroom Rules and Cell Phone Usage, Cont.:

Cell phones should not be used for personal use during class time. They may be used, at the discretion of the catechist, for class purposes, for example, apps, for the curriculum or class activities.

Communication:

All Faith Formation correspondence will be emailed to parent(s)/guardian(s) and posted on the OLM Faith Formation Facebook Page. Texting will be used, through Flocknote, for group and important information. The Faith Formation and Sacramental information in the parish bulletin and on the parish website will be updated weekly.

****Please provide the Faith Formation Coordinator with the email address you use most often, and, if on Facebook, join the OLM Faith Formation Facebook Page.****

Policies and Procedures:

Program Tuition:

\$40.00 for one child, \$10 for each additional child

*****If the tuition payment is a hardship for your family, please let the Faith Formation Coordinator know. Be assured of confidentiality. We do not want any child/children to not be able to attend because of financial reasons. *****



Our Lady of the Mountains Faith Formation Program:

Classes are held Sunday Mornings

at St. Mary Church

300 East Oldtown Road

From 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Parish Office

300 East Oldtown Road, Suite 2
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Tel 301-777-1750 • Fax 301-777-2669

Email: OLMCumberland@archbalt.org

www.OLMCumberland.org