

Faith Formation

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The goals of our faith formation program pre-k through 6th, are to encourage and equip parents to live and teach their children the Catholic Faith at home. Children learn naturally, and parents are their first and most important teachers. We continue to support the parents throughout high school by meeting with the students weekly using approved curriculum that clearly and adequately present the teaching of the Catholic Church.

"Family Catechesis...precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis. Thus there cannot be too great an effort on the part of Christian parents to prepare for this ministry of being their own children's catechists and to carry it out with tireless zeal." Pope St. John Paul II, *Catechesi Tradendae*

The teacher/aide in Faith Formation is a Catechist who is familiar with the curriculum on the appropriate grade level, is prepared, has reflected and prayed before each class and provides a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere for all students. It is someone who is a confirmed, practicing Catholic.

A Catechist is encouraged to nurture his or her own faith, as well as those entrusted to him/her. The Director of Faith Formation provides resources and support for the catechists. Classes for 7-12 grade meet Wednesday evenings from 6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. The students in pre-K-6th grade and their parents meet once a month at St. Mary's. Parents then use provided curriculum to teach their children during the remaining weeks of the month.

If you are interested in working with the youth of our parishes, please call Rita Olson at 983-6564 or email faithformation@stmarystlouis.org.

Totus Tuus

We need volunteers of all kinds to help with Totus Tuus. Totus Tuus (Latin phrase meaning, *Totally Yours*) is a week-long, fun and energetic Catholic youth program taught by seminarians and college students throughout the Diocese of St. Cloud. From catechetical sessions, sacraments, Mass, songs, games and skits - your child is sure to have fun while learning more about their faith!

NET Lifeline Chaperones

Chaperones are needed to attend the NET Lifeline programs (at the NET Center in West St. Paul) with St. Mary's and St. Louis youth, grades 8-12. Lifeline is a program offered that especially appeals to our young people. It is Mass geared to the youth with guest speakers following. This program occurs on the first Saturday of each month from October through May. The bus leaves St. Mary's at 2:30 p.m. and returns at approximately 11:30 p.m. Chaperones must be willing to participate and interact with our youth participants.