

2020-21

Faith Formation Registration

2020-2021

**For Grades Pre-K
through 12th Grade**

St. Michael Catholic Church

1125 St. Michaels Road

Mt. Airy, MD 21771

410-489-7667 www.smpschurch.org

A Letter From Our Pastor



Fall 2020

Dear Parents,

I encourage you in your ongoing responsibility of training children and youth, grades PreK-12, in the practice of the faith. I support you in your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us by loving God and our neighbor.

I am grateful to our Faith Formation Staff and catechists for assisting you with age-appropriate online sessions that have the safety and protection of your children at heart in light of the far-reaching consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I ask your little ones, tweens, and teens to imitate the young Jesus who was obedient to his parents and advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man (cf. Lk 2:51-52).

Lastly, I ask your commitment to Christ Jesus as his disciples in mission. Let us walk with purpose; growing in faith together as men and women after God's own heart. Let us rebuild fellowship and service making St. Michael Church, Poplar Springs-Mt. Airy, a warm and friendly place, a spiritual sanctuary for tired and hungry pilgrims.

Let us pray and open wide the door to our hearts that folks may enter here to find help and healing and strength for their state in life and rest and comfort and consolation. May folks find here instruction in the word of God and food for the journey in the Body and Blood of Christ and reassurance that we can never be separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Sincerely,

Fr. Mike



Faith Formation Staff and Overview

Ted Burkhardt – Pastoral Assistant ~ 240-437-3672

e-mail address: TBurkhardt@smpschurch.org

To be hired - Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministry (Grades 6 – 12 and Confirmation preparation) ~ 240-437-3671

Joann Wozniak - Administrator for Religious Education (PreK – 5th and First Reconciliation/Eucharist preparation) ~ 240-437-3673

e-mail address: JWozniak@smpschurch.org

Sally Amatucci - Administrative Assistant for Religious Education/Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Virtus Coordinator ~ 240-437-3670

e-mail address: SAmatucci@smpschurch.org

Because our ultimate goal is heaven – for ourselves and for all those we love – we evangelize! St. Michael's Faith Formation program is ordered towards helping parents pass on the faith to their families and to ensure that their children have the tools necessary to freely choose salvation.

Grades Pre-K - 5 Overview

- Faith Formation will take place in the home until conditions change.
- Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* will provide the content for Faith Formation accessed online. You may choose digital only or digital/hardcopy on your registration form.
- RCL Benziger will provide content for the family life portion.

*Cool factoid: Pflaum Gospel Weeklies follow a 3-year cycle of Sunday Gospel readings so that each program covers several grade levels without repeating Gospel readings or curriculum material (e.g., PGW's Venture issues serve Grades 4 and 5).

Weekly Lesson Format Communication For Grades PreK - 5

- St. Michael Faith Formation Team (The Team) to send a Flocknote on Monday of each week with the following:
 - a link to a video created by The Team that introduces the lesson
 - a link to Pflaum Weeklies that includes videos for the Gospel, Catholic teaching, and discussion
 - additional links to other resources produced and generated by The Team.
 - RCL Benziger Family Life program 6 times during the year

- The first video will be sent out on Monday, September 28, 2020 with the last video being released on April 19, 2021 to be completed by April 25.
- Once registered you will be given a code to access the videos.
- The Team is available if you need assistance.

Faith Formation For Grades 6-8 Overview

- Program content is produced by Lifeteen: Edge
- The Team will facilitate the online gatherings three times a month with the fourth gathering to take place in person/online, based on conditions and family preferences.
- Structure - Pray, Gather, Break, and Send
- Program content is usually aligned with the liturgical year.
- Small group discussions.
- Activities.
- The Team will send a Flocknote to parents each week to guide conversations at home.

Grades 9-12 Overview

- Program content is produced by Lifeteen.
- The Team will facilitate the online gatherings three times a month with the fourth gathering to take place in person/online, based on conditions and family preferences.
- Structure - Pray, Gather, Break, and Send
- Program content is usually aligned with the liturgical year.
- Small group discussions
- Activities
- The Team will send a Flocknote to parents each week to guide conversations at home.
- Service activities will be scheduled several times a year.

A separate packet will be sent to all those who completed the first year of Confirmation 2019-20. One year of faith formation must be completed prior to the sacrament year.

(There is an adult Confirmation process for those who were not confirmed in their youth. Contact Dcn Harbey Santiago for more information. HSantiago@smpschurch.org)

Schedule of Sessions Grades 6-12

Edge (Middle School): Tuesdays 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Sessions begin October 13th and run through April 27th.

Life Teen (High School): Wednesdays 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Sessions begin October 14th and run through April 28th.

First Reconciliation (Penance/Confession)

- This sacrament of healing is celebrated prior to receiving First Eucharist.
- A parent meeting will be held on October 13, 2020, at 7:10 pm in the Fellowship Hall or through Zoom, depending on your preference.
- Children may be registered for this sacrament if they were in faith formation last year and are at least a rising second grader.
- As always, parents have the option of waiting until they believe their child is mature enough to comprehend the meaning and the significance of this sacrament.
- Submit a copy of your child's baptismal certificate if not baptized at St. Michael.
- Reconciliation will be December 14, 2020, at 7:00pm, or January 28, 2021, at 7:00pm.

First Holy Eucharist (Communion)

- The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith.
- A parent meeting will be held on January 26, 2021, at 7:10 pm in the Fellowship Hall or through Zoom, depending on your preference.
- Children may be registered for this sacrament if they were in faith formation last year and are at least a rising second grader and completed reconciliation.
- As always, parents have the option of waiting until they believe their child is mature enough to comprehend the meaning and the significance of this sacrament.
- Submit a copy of your child's baptismal certificate if not baptized at St. Michael.
- Our First Communion Masses are held the first two Saturdays in May: May 1, 2021, 10:00am and 12:00pm, and May 8, 2021 at 10:00am, or you may schedule it during a regularly scheduled Sunday mass through the Faith Formation Administrative Assistant.

Please be aware that archdiocesan policy regulates that a child must have attended a minimum of one full year of Faith Formation sessions or have been enrolled in a Catholic school faith formation class prior to the year in which they prepare for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation.

CATHOLIC TEACHING ON FAMILY LIFE AND MORALITY COMPONENT

The Archdiocese has required that all Christian Formation programs for youth contain the element of personal body safety and morality. The intent of the Archdiocese is to have parish programs **ASSIST** the parents/guardians in their efforts to present this subject from a Catholic Christian perspective.

Kindergarten thru 5th ~

- Program content is provided online by RCL/Benziger: Family Life.
- Updated curriculum pieces include personal body safety in regards to bullying, respecting others as fellow Christians, and raising awareness as to what is a healthy relationship and what is potentially unhealthy.
- The idea is to strengthen the dignity of the human person as one of God's creation.
- You are welcome to visit our office and review the materials.

Middle School and High School ~

- Edge and Life Teen includes the family life component built into their curriculum called “Issue Nights.”
- Typically for those sessions we will ask the parents to be present so that the conversation can be fostered among the family.

Tuition for Pre-K - 12th*

Number of Children	Rcvd by October 3 rd	Rcvd after Sessions Begin
1 Child	\$95	\$120
2 Children	\$130	\$155
3 Children	\$165	\$190
4 or More Children	\$200	\$225

*Does not include Confirmation in 10th grade.

Please make checks payable to St. Michael Church or you may [pay online if you have signed up for online giving](#).

CANCELLATIONS (for any in-person meetings)

St. Michael follows the **Howard County Public Schools inclement weather school closing policy** on schooldays. If weekend activities and sessions are canceled because of inclement weather, a notice will be posted on the parish website www.stmichaelpoplarsprings.org. No decision will be made until 3:00 p.m. unless Howard County has closed their schools early. We will post our Sunday class cancellations by 7:15 a.m. Your safety is paramount. Always use your best judgment.

Archdiocese of Baltimore

Student Harassment Policy

I. Policy

It is the policy of the Archdiocese to prohibit discrimination, including harassment on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability or handicap or protected activity, (i.e. opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the complaint process) in its education programs and activities. Each Catholic school shall adhere to this policy with respect to students. (Employees are similarly protected from harassment by a separate Archdiocesan policy.)

II. Scope

This Policy applies to all students in Archdiocesan elementary, middle and secondary schools. The Archdiocese neither condones nor tolerates harassment of students at school, school-related activities or functions, or in any school-related setting. Harassment of students, whether engaged in by other students, teachers, administrators, or others, is prohibited. Violation of this Policy is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment or suspension or expulsion from school, depending on the nature and severity of the offense and the individual's disciplinary record.

III. Prohibited Conduct

For purposes of this Policy, "harassment" means verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his or her race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability or handicap, or protected activity, that:

Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment;

Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance; or otherwise adversely affects an individual's educational opportunities.

Harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping, or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, handicap or disability. "Sexual" harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for educational decisions or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

Enrollment Form 2020-2021

St. Michael Faith Formation

Pre-K to 12th Grade Classes

Please note: Registrations due by August 31, 2020, for ordering purposes.

Payment is due at time of registration for record keeping and participation recognition to send links and videos.

** Please note: If you are in need of **tuition assistance**, we offer a scholarship program and keep this information strictly private. Contact Sally Amatucci via e-mail samatucci@smpschurch.org with an explanation of need for assistance. **You must re-apply each year.***

Please print clearly.

FAMILY NAME: _____

St. Michael's main method of communication is through email. If you are not receiving regular emails throughout the school year, please contact us to be sure we have the correct information. You could miss out on important information regarding classes and/or sacraments.

MAIN E-MAIL ADDRESS: (St. Michael's main method of communication)

MAIN CELL PHONE CONTACT: _____ Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Second Cell Phone Contact: _____ Parent/Guardian or Other: _____

Email: _____

Address _____ City _____

Please complete in full for each student. Please print clearly.

1st STUDENT NAME* _____ DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____

School grade in fall 2020 _____ Name of School _____

PreK-5th only: Digital only _____ Hard copy and digital _____ (We will set up a pick-up day.)

Please check below only if the child will receive the sacrament this year:

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Penance) _____ **FIRST EUCHARIST (Communion)** _____

Special needs or medical issues:

2nd STUDENT NAME* _____ DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____

School grade in fall 2020 _____ Name of School _____

PreK-5th only: Digital only _____ Hard copy and digital _____ (We will set up a pick-up day.)

Please check below only if the child will receive the sacrament this year:

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Penance) _____ FIRST EUCHARIST (Communion) _____

Special needs or medical issues:

3rd STUDENT NAME* _____ DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____

School grade in fall 2020 _____ Name of School _____

PreK-5th only: Digital only _____ Hard copy and digital _____ (We will set up a pick-up day.)

Please check below only if the child will receive the sacrament this year:

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Penance) _____ FIRST EUCHARIST (Communion) _____

Special needs or medical issues:

4th STUDENT NAME* _____ DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____

School grade in fall 2020 _____ Name of School _____

PreK-5th only: Digital only _____ Hard copy and digital _____ (We will set up a pick-up day.)

Please check below only if the child will receive the sacrament this year:

FIRST RECONCILIATION (Penance) _____ FIRST EUCHARIST (Communion) _____

Special needs or medical issues:

***If your child was not baptized here at St. Michael, please submit a copy of that child's baptismal certificate with this registration form if you have not done so already.**