



Dear Parent,

As the school year is coming upon us, religious education classes follow quickly behind. This year, Republic County Catholic Churches - St. Edward, St. George, and St. Isidore, will be implementing a new program called Family Faith Formation which uses *Family of Faith* by Sophia Institute. This program focuses on giving parents the tools they need to go forth and educate their families.

Parents will attend a “Parent Meeting” on the first Wednesday of the month with a theme to teach their children, then families will come back together on the third Wednesday of the month for a “Family Meal” with other families in the program. This program is designed to help our families and parish grow in faith together and build community to help support the continued growth of the Catholic Church. That being said, “regular” Wednesday night classes will now only be for Sacrament Prep students. While Wednesday evening classes will be limited to Sacrament Preparation students, all families with children in religious education are expected to participate in the monthly Family Faith Formation program.

Along with this program we will be implementing the Restored Order of the Sacraments, as decreed by the Bishop of Salina Diocese. By 2029 children in the Diocese of Salina will receive First Reconciliation in 2nd grade, and Confirmation and First Eucharist together at the same mass during their 3rd grade year. At this time, the bishop has asked us to ‘catch up’ confirming all students within our parishes who are older than 3rd grade. Included in this letter is a schedule for Sacrament Prep for the next few years.

Each family will also be asked to sign up for one Holy Half Hour (30 minutes of Adoration) per semester on Wednesday evenings. This Holy Half Hour can be attended by one family member or the entire family. More information will be released closer to classes starting.

I invite everyone to attend our Faith Formation Kick Off Event, “Back to Class Bash” on August 29th at 6:00pm at the Depot Market in Courtland! We will have a meal, fun games, and an informational session for parents.

I understand this is a lot of information and change, but children learn who God is through the daily witness of their family and community. The family is the “domestic church” where children learn that faith is lived at home through prayer, Mass, and service. This is why the change toward family faith formation is so important. If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please ask! I would love to speak with you over phone, in person or by email.

Sincerely,

Micayla M. Walden

Director of Religious Education