



2020-2021

What will formation look like for my family this year?

As we begin to look at the future of children's ministry for our parish communities, we uphold the Church's desire for the parents to be the primary teachers and guides of our faith.

But as a parent myself, I frequently ask "how can I practically do this?"

This year's online family formation is meant to help you answer this question. We will journey together to learn how to pray (as parents, as children, as a family), how to listen for God's voice, learn about our Church year, the Mass, the person of Jesus, and the Kingdom of God.

We will set the cornerstone of our foundation and build upon the themes of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We can then build upon these strong foundations when we reopen our Atrium spaces and our children can be welcomed safely into in-person catechesis.

Who is this for?

For families who were in our CGS program:

Often, parents who have children in Atrium ask me what they are learning because their children never really reveal what it is that they do in the Atrium environment. This will give you a glimpse into what your child was learning and it will help them connect the dots during this time between their atrium sessions.

For families who were in our traditional Sunday program (Kid's Small Groups):

This time filled with uncertainty is the perfect time to draw near to God. These presentations are ideal for our children (and their parents) who were in our Sunday Kid's Small Groups as they will continue to build upon the themes presented in last year's curriculum.

What will it look like?

Starting in October, you will receive a video once a month highlighting a key theme in getting to know Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Then, you will receive some suggested activities to complete during the month. You can complete them at your own pace.

We will be using the virtual learning platform, Seesaw. You will receive more information soon (after you register) on how to sign up. This platform is interactive and you have the flexibility to either complete the activities on the computer or print them off and complete them offline. Being able to submit your responses will allow for accountability and encouragement in your family and personal faith journey.

I also have a hope that our younger friends (K3-K5) will be able to get some special “mail” that goes with the monthly theme to complete in your home.

When will we be able to have in-person catechesis (CGS) again?

Do we have to continue the virtual option if I am able to register my child for CGS this year?

This all depends on what happens with the pandemic this year. The virtual option gives us the flexibility to continue our formation journey together without the unknowns of having to close down.

If public health criteria allows, my hope is to open our Atria for limited Sunday and weekday sessions in January or the Spring.

I encourage you to continue with the family formation option while your child is in Atrium. If you child is able to attend atrium, your activities for each month will be adjusted accordingly.

What if I have a 2nd Grader who needs to prepare for First Communion?

If you have children in other grades, please register for BOTH Cornerstone Family Formation and First Communion Preparation.

If your 2nd grader is your only child, please register for First Communion prep program only.

You (as parents) and your 2nd grader will receive some First Communion specific activities to complete each month—including some special “snail mail” as your child learns more about the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.