

FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET, 2022-23

[Families please keep this sheet as a reference throughout the coming year.

Dates are subject to change. Watch the parish bulletins each week for possible changes.

FAITH FORMATION BEGINS WITH 6:30PM MASS WED., SEPT. 7 FOR GR. 1-11.

The schedule for the year will be given out that evening.

****Class Times, Drop Off/Pick Up:**

Grades 1-5, 5:30PM-6:45PM:

Drop children off under the canopy in front of church or at the sidewalk leading to the north hall door. (The west hall door remains locked.) You can also walk your children into the hall if you prefer. **Please do not drop off children before 5:15PM, as adult supervision may not be available until that time.**

For pick up, most cars line up and stop under the canopy one at a time for the children. We know picking them up this way takes extra time. However, it is much safer than having the children run through the parking lot in between cars. You can also park your vehicle in the big parking lot and walk to the church entrance to pick your child up, if you prefer.

Grades 6-11, 7:00PM-8:10PM:

Drop off and pick up for Grades 6-11 can be along the front (north) side of the church or in the bigger parking lot area. (Reminder: West hall door is locked.) Please be watchful of students walking and running, especially when it is dark or slippery.

****Prerequisites:**

For Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist: Completion of Gr. 1 and 2 materials are required prior to reception of those Sacraments.

For Confirmation: Students must satisfactorily complete all the earlier grades, participate in the Confirmation program, and be attending Mass regularly (weekly).

NOTE: Those in Grade 2 and Grades 11-12 are to be attending classes (not home-schooled) for these years when they are preparing for receiving new Sacraments.

****Inclement Weather/Other Cancellations:**

If a class is cancelled:

1. Catechists will be notified and asked to call each of their students.
2. If school is cancelled for bad weather that day, class will be automatically cancelled that evening.
3. Cancellation will be announced in school if done while school is still in session that day.
4. Cancellation notice can be heard on WKEB/WIGM radio station in Medford (99.3 FM), and it will be posted on the Rib Lake Good Shepherd Faith Formation facebook page.
5. You can call the parish office (715-427-5259) or Mary Kauer, parish secretary (715-783-0132) to find out if class is cancelled or if you have concerns about your travel.

****Absences:**

Call the catechist or the parish office (715-427-5259) if your child will be gone from class. (You can always leave a message if no answer.) Acceptable absences include illness or emergency situations (students are not "excused" for going to other faith denomination events or other non-emergency events). If a student is frequently absent, the CRE will contact the family to draft an attendance plan.

****Parent Involvement:**

The witness you give to your children helps in forming a good spiritual foundation for them. When they see that Mass is important to you each week, they are more likely to have it become important in their lives also. Our catechists are here to support families in the faith formation of their children. However, parents are their primary teachers from Day 1! At a child's baptism, parents promise to bring them up in the Catholic faith and teach them to become good Christians. Part of that commitment includes your attending Mass regularly with them, praying with them daily, and instilling moral values in their lives.

****Reconciliation:**

Students of Grades 3-11 have two opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Faith Formation—in Advent and Lent.

****Masses During Faith Formation:**

There are four Masses scheduled during this Faith Formation year for all grades: Opening Youth Mass, September 7, 2022; All Souls Day Mass on November 2, 2022; Vigil Mass for the holy day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 7, 2022 and Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023. All of those will be at 6:30 pm. Parents as well as students are expected to attend the Masses, in place of the regular class time those evenings.

****Grades 1-5 Christmas Pageant:**

Each year Grades 1-5 youth are involved in a short Christmas Pageant. Generally it is held at the end of the Christmas Season, on the Epiphany of the Lord. This school year the pageant will be Sunday, January 8, 2023, following the 9:30 am Mass in the church. **Any parents who know their children will *not* be in the pageant on that date, please let their catechist know by early November, so we do not assign your child a part!** Be sure to invite grandparents and friends to that Mass for this special event.

****Grade 2 Reconciliation:**

A First Reconciliation Retreat will be held Wed., January 11, 2023, during regular class time in church. Parents are asked to attend with their children. The catechist will be providing parents with the steps to Reconciliation and a copy of the Act of Contrition for students to learn. The date of First Reconciliation will be Wednesday, January 18, 2023 during their regular class time. The first half of that class will include a quick review of the steps to Reconciliation, and the sacrament will be administered following that time. Parents are encouraged to also go to confession that same evening. This shows the children how important the sacrament is to you.

****Grade 2 Retreat for Holy Communion:**

The First Communion Retreat will be held at Holy Rosary, Medford. Both parents and students are asked to attend. Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 9 am to 1 pm. It will be great to have students from all four parishes there. Stations are set up for activities and students will make candles that will be used at the Mass of their First Communion.

****Grade 2 First Holy Communion:**

First Communion will be Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the 6:30 pm Mass at Good Shepherd. The dates in our four parish community cannot be changed. Therefore, any student unable to make their First Communion on this date and time, will have the opportunity to participate at one of the other Masses within our parish community that same weekend. If that does not work, your child can receive Holy Communion *individually* on another date at the Mass of your choice.

****Movie Night**

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 is set for Movie Night. It's a nice mid-season/winter break for all the students. Grades 6-11 will be bussed to the Broadway Theater in Medford to join with the other students from our four-parish community. Permission forms will be required for this. Watch for those as the time nears. Grades 1-5 will either have a movie night at Good Shepherd or other fun activities will be scheduled at the parish for them.

****Easter Joy Baskets**

Students will again be filling and delivering Easter Joy baskets for those from our community who can use a bit of joy. Students will have the opportunity to fill a gift bag/basket, and parents are asked to deliver the basket to the person before Easter. Additional cookies, etc. can be added to your basket at home too. We do provide names and addresses of people the night the baskets are filled, OR you may want to deliver it to someone you know personally that is not on our list. Please—if you do not plan to participate in this, let us know in advance. Families with more than one child have the option to deliver one bag per family or each child deliver a bag. Items are donated by parishioners. You are also welcome to bring items the night they are filled for all the students to choose from. Or, you can save your special items at home to finish filling your bag at home. Half the class time on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 will be set aside for this event. We do ask parents to come that evening to help their children in selecting a recipient of the bag and filling it with appropriate items.

**** Easter Triduum Services**

The Easter Triduum is the high point of our Catholic Faith. We encourage you to attend Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (or Easter Sunday) liturgies with your children. Those dates and times will be published near the end of Lent.

****Facebook Page for Faith Formation**

You may want to check out the Rib Lake Good Shepherd Faith Formation page. The intent of this page is to highlight special Faith Formation events and projects, as well as provide occasional reminders or program details. Check in frequently for updates.