



## MISSION STATEMENT OF THE FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS AT BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

*We offer and provide a foundation of the Catholic faith through catechetical programs that focus on the pillars of the Catechism, love of God, being a disciple of Christ, building a faith community, spiritual growth, and living the Gospel daily.*

### CATECHESIS EMPHASIS

*Catechesis is a responsibility of the entire parish community. This should not be the work of catechists and priests alone but of the whole community of the faithful. The parish community follows the development of catechetical processes for children and young people as a duty of their Catholic faith. Parents are first and foremost the primary witnesses of the faith to their children. "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children...Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith" (CCC §2223, 2226). The parish catechetical program has a mission is to assist parents and families in this task. This task is accomplished in a three-fold manner: Mass, catechesis, and modeling Christian life at home.*

### GOALS

*Catholicism is a way of life. The goal of Faith Formation is to bring the living spirit of faith into the lives of our parishioners. Faith is an encounter with a person, the living and glorified, Resurrected Christ. Faith is caught not taught. When teaching, the goal of catechetical programs is to bring a living and vital relationship with Christ into every teaching opportunity. Faith is shared and formed. Formation means lifelong transformation as a disciple. If formation stops at Confirmation, we are restricting the movements of the Spirit when they are only beginning to flourish. If ever we stop growing in prayer and in wisdom, we underestimate the marvelous work God is doing in us. Faith Formation aims to deepen our contact with Jesus Christ by educational and enrichment opportunities. Designed to teach the faith as well as touch the heart, the programs assist to live and experience a more Christ-centered life.*

### FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMS ELEMENTARY AND YOUTH FORMATION

*Classes are offered for grades Pre-K through 10<sup>th</sup> Grade. Classes are held on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. (after the 9:15 a.m. Mass and Hospitality). Preparation and celebration of First Penance and First Communion occurs in the second grade (or older, if needed), and it includes learning in the classroom at church as well as at home with the parents. The Sacrament of Confirmation preparation begins in grades 8-10 and is generally celebrated at the end of the second preparation year. Older teens in high school are welcome to attend and receive this sacrament as well.*

### REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

*To register for faith formation classes or for additional information on our programs, please contact Donna Hurn, Faith Formation and Sacramental Coordinator, at [faithformation3127@gmail.com](mailto:faithformation3127@gmail.com) or [dhurn@syrdiocese.org](mailto:dhurn@syrdiocese.org) (phone: 315.437.3394, Ext. 314).*

### CATECHETICAL VOLUNTEERS

*Catechist: Main instructor who has engaged in the necessary lesson planning to provide a weekly instruction that is informative and interactive based on the appropriate learning styles and methods.*

*Aide (Aged 18+): To assist the catechist in the appropriate learning styles and methods.*

*Helper (Teen): To assist the catechist and aide in practical matters similar to that of an aide.*

*All volunteer positions who work with children and youth must attend a Safe Environment Certification (and Recertification) session before assisting in the programs.*