



## *Answers to some questions you might have.....*

**1. What grades does “A Family of Faith” include?** Families with children in grades k-8 (5-14) will find age appropriate activities to do at home. Parents select which assignments best suit their children and complete a scrapbook/storybook. Younger & older children will benefit from their family’s involvement as well.

**2. Are the at home lessons difficult? What if I am not sure I can teach my child at home?** The Parent Sessions aim to enable families in very practical ways. “Be not afraid!” The resource materials are easy to use. Plus, you’ll have the support of a dedicated parish team, other parents, and the prayers of our parish family.

**3. Are there no traditional “drop-off” classes for children anymore?** That’s correct, “A Family of Faith” replaces the weekly classes for children only.

**4. Must both parents attend the sessions?** No. The Catholic parent(s) has the responsibility to pass on the Catholic Faith to their children. Both parents are welcome. One parent can participate.

**5. Do children come every Sunday?** Yes, to weekly Sunday Mass. It is not necessary for younger children (those who are not preparing to make a Sacrament this year) to come during the “Parent Sessions” at the beginning of the month. Focusing on their weekly participation at Mass lays the proper foundation for growing faith. Both children & parents come to the “Family Together” sessions at the end of the month.

**6. My children will be hungry after Mass, may I bring a snack?** Yes! Please bring something simple. Sometimes, the Family Together Session might include a picnic or meal. If your child has allergies, please bring something for them.

**7. My son/daughter has already been Confirmed, should I sign up for “A Family of Faith?”** Absolutely! After completing their “Full Initiation” the importance of shared faith, continuing education, discipleship & service is essential. Your family’s participation is also important as support for others.

**8. How does preparation for the sacraments fit in? When is First Communion, Confirmation, Reconciliation?**

Reconciliation- children can usually expect to make a First Confession by the end of second grade. (7 years old) Support for preparation for this sacrament will offered for both child & parent.

Confirmation & First Eucharist- This year, at Our Lady of the Pines, with due preparation, children who are in grade 3 can anticipate celebrating both Confirmation & First Communion this year at the same Mass. Fourth graders (and older) can also receive Confirmation. Details will be offered at an Information Meeting for the Sacraments of Initiation for parent/s early October. Preparation classes for both parent & child are planned beginning in November. See dates on reverse.

**9. How can children as young as grade 3 be ready for Confirmation? I was Confirmed at a much older age, why is it different?** Our Archbishop Samuel Aquilla has Restored the Order of the Sacraments of Initiation. His pastoral letter “Saints Among Us” offers valuable insight. Visit our parish web site for more information.

**10. What if my son or daughter is older than 5<sup>th</sup> grade & not yet Confirmed?** Enroll in “A Family of Faith” and sign them up for our Middle School Youth Group. We will work together to plan an age appropriate preparation. If high school aged, please contact the parish office.