



Registration is Open for the 2024-2025 St. Mark Faith Formation Year!

Hello Parents,

Summer has arrived, and that means planning for the year has begun including service opportunities, family events and ordering materials. There is still much to do and to help with the process, we ask that you register your child(ren) on or before August 1.

Our ministry is to collaborate with parents in the growth and formation of their child's faith. We look forward to seeing returning families and meeting families who are new to the program and walking with you on this journey in faith.

Included in the packet of registration materials is a registration form and parent volunteer form to be completed and turned into the parish office along with the fee. **Parents: note that both sides of the registration form need to be completed.** The first date of sessions and parent meeting are listed below. The full calendar for the year will be available later this summer.

Our parish is blessed to have many dedicated parishioners who have answered the call to share their faith and time with the young people in religious education, but with our goal of 2 catechists/aides at every grade level a few more people are needed. **Check out the enclosed parent volunteer form and prayerfully consider helping as a catechist or catechist aide.**

As your family continues to enjoy everything that the season of Summer has to offer let's keep praying together, taking care of each other and loving each other.

God's blessings-

Mary H. Hart
Director of Religious Education

Grades 1-9 Parent Meeting:

- Wednesday, September 11

Sessions Begin:

- **Sunday, September 15**
Confirmation Session 1 in the school building following the Sunday Liturgy
- **Wednesday, September 18:**
Grades 1-9; 6:15 – 7:30p.m.
- **Sunday, October 6:**
Sunday School during in the school building during Sunday Liturgy

Sunday School will be offered at St. Mark for children ages 3-5 years two Sundays a month at during Sunday Mass, provided we have enough family interest.



If you are "new" to our program or your child is celebrating a Sacrament this year: Include a copy of their baptismal certificate with your registration form.

Check the backside for more information regarding the Safe Environment Program



“Safe Environment” refers to providing a place where children are safe and free from harm while they are in our care. In accord with the United States Bishops’ *Charter and Essential Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People*, all parishes are mandated to offer Safe Environment Training to all parents and children who are registered in parish programs. Below is a description of the Safe Environment Training by grade level. The Diocese of La Crosse requires parents to sign off on the training for themselves and their child. Parent verification of Safe Environment Training can be found on the back of the enclosed registration form. Refer to the website www.dioclc.org/safe-environment/ or contact the parish office to review the materials.

The Diocese of La Crosse provides Safe Environment training from the Catholic perspective
To youth participating in its programs.
The focus of the Safe Environment Sessions is as follows:

Kindergarten-Second Grade: Students will learn about their **dignity** (their incredible worth) as **children of God** and the respect that each person deserves as a child of God. Students will learn about safety, safe environment and the care that is to surround them, the difference between appropriate, kind actions and behavior that makes them feel safe, secure and loved, and inappropriate, harmful actions and behaviors that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Grade Three-Five: Students will learn about the virtue of **respect**, which is based upon the **dignity of each human person**. Students will learn the importance of saying “no” to inappropriate, harmful actions, behavior and touch that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Children will be encouraged to tell immediately a trusted adult when these situations arise and will learn about the buddy system.

Grades Six-Eight: Students will learn how each person, including themselves must be treated with **respect**. Students will learn about, and seek to develop or further develop, the virtue of **prudence**-making good decisions. Students will learn practical tips for keeping themselves safe and will discuss defensive and assertive body language to protect them.

High School: Students will understand virtue, which are **good moral habits**, and vice, which are bad moral habits. Students will discuss the virtue of **chastity** and **modesty**; learn practical steps for protecting themselves and others from sexual abuse, including the ability to recognize warning signs and how to react to abuse and to the possible threat of abuse.

