

**Saint Mary**  
**of the Immaculate Conception**

**Faith Formation 1 & 2**  
**Preschool thru High School**



**Family Guide**  
**2009-2010**

# *The Journey of Faith...*



## **PRESCHOOL**

The Preschool program reinforces the parents' teachings in the home of God's love for His people and all of creation through Bible stories in which children can relate to their daily lives. The *Faith First* series is published by Resources for Christian Living. *There is no fee for preschool, but families must be parish members to participate.*

## **ELEMENTARY (K-6)**

Our elementary students use the Faith First series. Components of the elementary series are creed, worship, scripture and morality. Scripture is the basis for all of the teaching at each level. Each of these components (creed, worship, sacraments and scripture) is taught in greater depth as they proceed through the grade levels.

The children meet for a large group assembly in Church for fifteen minutes which includes Scripture, Church traditions, and music. Catechists add to the lesson as visuals by reenacting various scenes from the Bible and seasonal songs are taught to the children, both traditional and contemporary.

Additional special events are held during the Christmas season— "Christmas Reflections" performed by the children— and our year-end session that includes the traditional May Crowning for all Faith Formation elementary students, families and parishioners. The celebration includes the Crowning of Mary, the Rosary, and Benediction. It is followed by an ice cream social.

## **MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL (7-12)**

Middle and high school youth gather with their faith groups monthly with the Bible as their text. The following are components of each gathering :

- ◇ Scripture. This year's focus will be on Jesus' Actions.
- ◇ *Rooted in the Gospel* is a booklet filled with teachings of the Church.
- ◇ Liturgical Life describes the seasons of the Church and the lives of the saints.
- ◇ Morality scenarios raise questions about how we are living Catholic Christian lives.
- ◇ Apostolic Actions give youth the opportunity to truly live out their faith thru various ministries of the parish and in the community for two hours each month outside of class.

### **Large Group Gatherings**

A youth Liturgy, Reconciliation or special service is celebrated for **all youth** each month prior to the middle school youth gathering.

On the first Sunday in May, the final gathering of the year concludes with both middle and high school youth coming together for Liturgy, a meal, Scripture, reflection on the year, opportunity for youth to change faith groups, and the famous "*Rooted in the Gospel*/Scripture Challenge."

## Class/Gathering Times



Pre-School (children must be 4 yrs. by 12/31)	Sunday (Usually 1st & 3rd)	10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Elementary (K - 6)	Tuesday Wednesday Wednesday	4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. 4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. 5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Middle School (7 – 8)	Sunday (Usually the 2nd Sunday)	5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
High School (9 – 11)	Varies by group	

## Student Class Grade Placement

Students are placed in the classroom grades in which they attend in their formal education. Students retained/advanced in public schools will be retained/advanced in Faith Formation.

## Absence/Early Dismissal/Make-up

### Faith Formation 1 (K—6)

If your child will be absent on a given day call Maggie at 868-3336.  
If your child will be taken out of class early call Mary Therese at 868-3339.  
Parents contact Mary Therese for make-up work.

### Preschool & Faith Formation 2 (7-11)

If your youth will be absent or taken out of class early call Sabrina at 868-3334.  
Parents contact Sabrina for make-up work.

*Parents will be contacted regarding the whereabouts of missing children/teens.*

## Sickness or Accident

Parents will be contacted upon illness or injury of students during class. If a parent cannot be reached, the emergency contact person will be called. If neither parents nor emergency contact persons are located, staff will use their best judgment.



## Cancellation of Classes

The cancellation of classes will be posted on the homepage of the parish website [www.saintmarymilton.org](http://www.saintmarymilton.org). You will also be notified in the following manner:

### Faith Formation 1

The Milton Schools will be notified so children will go home in the usual manner. When Milton Public Schools close due to weather, Faith Formation classes will be cancelled. WCLO 1230 AM and WJVL 99.9 FM radio will also announce closings. ***Families of children from other school districts, please be especially aware.***

### Preschool and Faith Formation 2 (Youth Ministry)

Families will be notified of cancellations from the coordinator or youth ministry leaders.

## Transportation/Parking

### Child Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Preschool: Parent/guardian drops off child in the Church Hall (lower level) classroom and picks up child in classroom at 11:30 a.m.
- K – 2: Drivers use St. Mary Street entrance following the orange cones to drop students off in front of the building. A parent/guardian or sibling (3rd grade or older) must pick up the child in classroom after class.
- 3 – 6: Drivers use St. Mary Street entrance following the orange cones to drop students off in front of the building. Students wait in front parking lot for ride.

### Bus Transportation

Bus service is available to children attending Milton East, Milton West, Harmony and Northside schools for the Tuesday 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday 4:00 p.m. sessions.



### Special Parking

Parents coming for special events or meetings may park in the south parking lot or east lot located directly across Parkview Drive from the church.

## Christian Learning Environment

Maintaining order during sessions is very important for children and teens to grasp the fullness of concepts and lessons taught in this short period of time. Therefore, respectful Christian conduct is expected at all times toward everyone. Parents will be notified of behavioral concerns. *Please note that cell phones and electronics must be turned off during class time.*



## Safe Environment Training

Volunteers working with children are required to attend a training session called *VIRTUS: Protecting God's Children*. A background check is also completed.

## Emergency Evacuation and Shelters



### Fire/Evacuation

A plan of student evacuation in the event of an emergency is in place. Meet your children at the designated area; they will wait for you there:

Church Hall (lower level) Classes: The south end of the south parking lot.

Parish Center Classes: The storage shed at the northwest corner of the church property.

### Tornado

All students will gather in the Church Hall (lower level) with their catechists/leaders.

## Faith Formation Program Registration

### Annual Registration

Families receive registration packets annually in order to update personal and Sacramental records.

### New Family Registration

New families to Saint Mary choosing to become members of the parish shall contact Father Jim Uppena and set up an appointment. Registration for Faith Formation classes will follow.

### Tuition

Program tuition payment need not be included with the registration form, but families may choose to include full or partial payment with the registration form. Tuition may be paid in one lump sum or using a parish payment plan. Reminder statements will be sent out during the year. *No child will be refused Faith Formation at Saint Mary Parish due to inability to pay tuition at any given time. All you need to do is call Father Jim Uppena, our pastor, at 868-3338.*

### *Family Registered at Saint Mary*

\$100 for one child

\$125 for more than one child

### *Family Not Registered at Saint Mary*

\$200 for one child

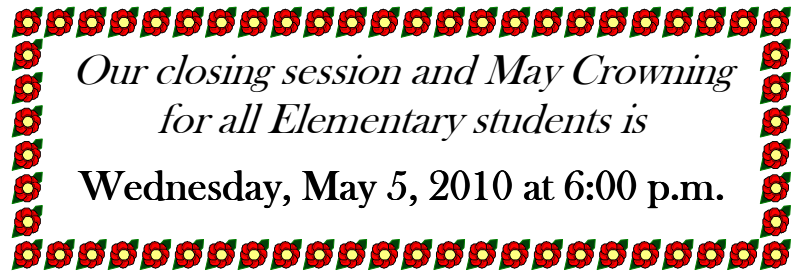
\$250 for more than one child

*Catechists/Youth Ministry Leaders/Office Aides/Security: \$50 for the family*

# Faith Formation 1

## Preschool Classes

October	4 & 18
November	1 & 15
December	6 & 20
January	3 & 17
February	7 & 21
March	7 & 21
April	11 & 25


  
*Our closing session and May Crowning*  
*for all Elementary students is*  
**Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**

## Elementary Classes

September	22/23; 29/30
October	6/7; 13/14; 20/21 (No classes 27/28)
November	3/4; 10/11; 17/18 (No classes 24/25)
December	1/2; 8/9; 15/16 (No classes 22/23, 29/30)
January	5/6; 12/13; 19/20; 26/27;
February	2/3; 9/10; 16/17; 23/24
March	2/3; 9/10; 16/17; 23/24; (No classes 30/31)
April	6/7; 13/14; 20/21; 27/28
May	5

## Special... Meetings and Events for Faith Formation I

Sunday, September 27 at 9:15 a.m.	First Communion Parent Meeting (Grade 2)
Tuesday, December 15 during class	Christmas Reflection
Wednesday, December 16 during class	Christmas Reflection
(Alternate dates for Christmas Reflection, due to weather, will be January 5/6)	
Sunday, December 20 after 10:30 a.m. Mass	Preschool Sing
Tuesday/ Wednesday, January 5/6	Christmas Reflection or Regular Class
March 30/31	Holy Week—No classes
May 5 at 6:00 p.m.	Closing session for all Tuesday and Wednesday students May Crowning

# Faith Formation 2 (Youth Ministry)

**Middle School Calendar**

September 20	5:30 p.m.
October 11	5:30 p.m.
November 8	5:30 p.m.
December 13	5:30 p.m.
January 10	5:30 p.m.
February 14	5:30 p.m.
March 14	5:30 p.m.
April 11	5:30 p.m.
May 2	5:30 p.m.

**\*Cluster Middle School Rally—  
January 27 @ 6:00 p.m.\***

**High School Calendar**

September 27	5:30 p.m. at St. Mary
May 2	5:30 p.m. at St. Mary

*HS gatherings are determined by each faith group.*

*Saint Mary hosts...*

**Cluster World Youth Day Celebration  
October 25 @ 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary**

**Make-Up Sessions**

Sessions will take place at the end of each month at St. Mary. Families will be contacted with the make-up date and time.

**NEW!**

**Youth Liturgies and Reconciliation**

September 20	Mass at 5:30 p.m.
October 11	Mass at 5:30 p.m.
October 25	Mass at 5:00 p.m. (High School cluster event)

**\*Milton hosts this year's cluster  
World Youth Day\***

November 8	Mass at 5:30 p.m.
December 13	Reconciliation at 5:30 p.m.
January 10	Mass at 5:30 p.m.
February 14	Mass at 5:30 p.m.
March 14	Reconciliation at 5:30 p.m.
April 11	Mass at 5:30 p.m.
May 2	Mass at 5:30 p.m.

### Contact People

Fr. Jim Uppena juppena@centurytel.net	Pastor	868-3338
Mary Therese Gallagher mtherese@centurytel.net	Pastoral Associate Faith Formation 1 Coordinator <i>Kindergarten - 6th Grade</i>	868-3339
Sabrina Elsen sabrinae@centurytel.net	Faith Formation 2 Coordinator <i>Youth Ministry and Preschool</i>	868-3334
Angie McNally amcnally@centurytel.net	Coordinator of Liturgy & Music	868-3335
Vicki Kersten vlkersten@centurytel.net	Parish Administrative Assistant	868-3337
Maggie Jason mjason@centurytel.net	Faith Formation 1 & 2 Administrative Assistant Assistant Parish Administrative Assistant	868-3336



# The Word of God