

Dear Parents,

I am excited that we will continue the faith formation program started last fall. It is designed to assist the parents in being the primary educators of their children's faith. It is also one of Bishop Hying's preferred forms of catechesis for children in the Diocese of Madison.

We use **A Family of Faith** by Sophia Press. It consists of a monthly workshop that parents and children will attend on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May, and includes a parent's guide, an activity book, and a storybook. A Bible and a Catechism are given the first year of enrollment. Each workshop will cover the topic for the month and walk the parents through the suggested activities to be taught at home.

Adults and high school students will attend the presentation/speaker section. Children will be placed into age groups consisting of; an infant/toddler room (so mom and dad can enjoy the presentation), 3-6-year-olds will be in the atrium for **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**, and 2nd-8th grade will be divided into groups depending on enrollment, and work on age-appropriate teachings of the Church.

At home the parents will engage their children with activities that fit their child's needs, learning styles, and abilities by using the step-by-step guidance that is provided in the parent's guide and activity book.

By May, you will have developed a broad understanding of one pillar of the Catechism, and have completed a storybook to show what you and your children have learned throughout the year.

**First Holy Communion and Reconciliation** class will be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. In a similar fashion to **A Family of Faith**, parent(s) and child will attend class once a month from September through April, and parent(s) will teach 1-2 lessons a month at home. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 5th, 2024. **Confirmation** prep will be offered depending on need. Please note on the form if your child will need either one of these sacraments this coming school year.

If you have any questions regarding this program or sacramental prep, please give me a call.

Blessings,

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### *Catechesis of the Good Shephard Atrium*

*The atrium is a place where each child is drawn by God into relationship with Him through the words, materials, beauty, and silence of the space. The Atrium reflects the reverence, controlled movement, and quiet voices of the Sanctuary in order to lead each child to a full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy of the Church. The atrium is a holy space where each child is invited to open and enjoy the gifts of God both personally and communally.*