



Family Faith Formation

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION

271 West Saddle River Rd
Upper Saddle River NJ 07458
201-327-1313
www.presentationfff.org
www.jh.presentationfff.org

FAQs 2025-26 Family Faith Formation Grades 1 to 8

What is the role of parents?

Our faith is a gift from God! It is also an ongoing choice. Because faith is best taught and lived out in the family, the Church calls parents to be the first and foremost educators of their children. YOU are the primary catechists and teachers of your children. It is well researched that children are more likely to put into practice the faith they see lived out day-to-day at home. *You* form them. *You* give them the experiences and moments that tell them that there is something special about being a Catholic Christian, and about being a part of our Parish Community.

We encourage you to bring your children to weekly Mass to worship with our parish family. We encourage you to work with your children on their e-lessons, and ask them what they learned. Talk with them about it. Please make sure that they keep up with their lessons and complete their G.Y.M. exercises according to the schedule. It is much easier if you follow the Scheduler than wait until the last minute.

What are the requirements for a successful completion of the FFF (Grades 1 to 8) program each year?

- Participation in our monthly gatherings is **mandatory**. You select which session to attend each month. Refer to our calendar for the dates.
- Completion of weekly (or bi-weekly) e-lessons & activities via our website, in a timely manner.
- For Grades 1 to 6, completion of the **FOUR** assessments following each of the four chapters. The G.Y.M. (Godly Young Muscles) is the **mandatory** assessment tool required for sacramental prep as well as moving up to the next grade level.
- Attendance to our First Sunday or Third Sunday 10am Family Mass is encouraged.

Online Lessons

The online lessons & activities are the digital online catechetical lessons in our website that is password-protected. These are scheduled and remain accessible 24/7 until end of June. For **Grades 1 to 6**, there are **eight(8) lessons** per chapter. It's format is a "read-view-play" sequence. The "play" is a validation game to assess what the child learned in that lesson. The e-lessons with a common theme are designed for three different grade levels. These are: Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, and Grades 5-6. For **Grades 7-8**, there are **four (4) lessons** per chapter, which include prayer songs, a written lesson, a video to enhance the lesson and mandatory response questions. The online lessons are downloadable and printable files. Our website has other tools of faith like formal prayers, information on the lives of the saints, music, and family activities and videos which can also serve as refreshers for parents.

What is the G.Y.M.? (for Grades 1 to 6)

G.Y.M. stands for *Godly Young Muscles*. It is our overall assessment tool that is open after each chapter. It has a set of exercises/questions that helps us assess knowledge as well as evaluate the effectiveness of our program. It is referred to as an exercise because the questions during G.Y.M. time are the same questions that you will find in the e-lessons and validation games.

Check the Scheduler so you will know when it is G.Y.M. time, for each chapter. It's schedule is the same for all grade levels. Most importantly, it will only be accessible when the child has completed the eight (8) lessons for that chapter.

What is a Scheduler?

The Scheduler outlines the requirements of our curriculum with the schedule of lessons and timing of the G.Y.M. There is a Scheduler for each grade level and it is downloadable and printable.

What happens at a monthly gathering?

• Participation in our monthly gatherings is **mandatory**. It is very important that you are present as a family or the child/children with at least one parent. Refer to our FFF Calendar for the dates.

• Our Gatherings are very unique and special, and bring you together in community each month.

Our Monthly Gatherings are either:

~ **Break-Outs** Break-out months begin in the Church highlighting a relevant topic followed by a breakout by grade level in which parents have their own group, or we hold a breakout in which the families work together.

~ **Scriptural Plays** These are either held in the church or auditorium. Everyone is welcome.

• Monthly gatherings are typically held on the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the third week of each month (Tue-Fri 6pm-7:30pm and Saturday 3-4:30pm).

~ During the Advent season and Holy Week there are several enriching worship experiences and events. Families are encouraged to attend one of the parish events to fulfill their Family Faith Formation obligation during these months. In May families engage in an outreach project.

How does FFF communicate with the Families?

A monthly newsletter, reminders, and other notices are sent via email. Closure notices will be posted in our parish FB page or if you call, there will be a message. The parish bulletin in print or website also has a section on Family Faith information.

My child will receive First Eucharist the coming year, do I need to register with FFF?

Yes, you will register **both** with FFF **and** with our First Eucharist program. The Archdiocese requires 2 years of religious education. Therefore, on the 2nd year of your child's religious education, you will be completing both the FFF requirements and the First Eucharist requirements for your child to receive First Eucharist in the Spring.

My child received First Eucharist this past year, do I still need to register with FFF?

Yes, through 8th grade. The Archdiocese requires faith formation through and including 8th grade in

order to then begin preparation for Confirmation in the 9th grade. That program is a 2 year program and our teens receive Confirmation in the spring of grade 10.

Can my child fail the FFF program?

Our goal is for every child to have a fruitful year in Family Faith. We want everyone to grow in their faith, to love being a part of our family here at Presentation, and to know in their hearts that they are loved by God!

• Participation in all of the monthly gatherings and full completion of the four G.Y.M. assessments ensure that a child will move onto the next level.

• As long as they do the online lessons there is no way to fail the G.Y.M. assessment.

~ First, the Q&As in the G.Y.M are spelled-out in advance within every e-lesson.

~ Second, the Q&As in the G.Y.M. are played out and pre-tested in the Validation Game in each e-lesson.

~ As soon as the kids take the G.Y.M. exercises they have a choice to retake it.

• And of course, we strongly encourage you to participate in our weekly 10:00 a.m. Mass with us. Coming together at the table of the Lord—the best table in town—is the one true gift we have as a faith community.

Final Thought....

Our Family Faith Team, along with Fr. Anthony and the entire staff, believes in the purpose of our Family Faith Formation Program. But YOU are at the center of our program – **our families!** All that we do is for you! We believe that families are the domestic Church, and it is within your family that your children will truly come to know and feel God's love. Our Parish family is an extension of *your* family, and we strive to make sure your children know that they are very valuable to us, capable to learn and to grow, and very loved by us all. We are always here to support you and to journey with you!

Contact Us:

Email: familyfaith@churchofpresentation.org

Phone: 201-327-1313 ext 815 or 832