



Dear Home Faith parents,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to returning families and all new families to our Home Faith program

Each of us is called to be a disciple—to say yes to Jesus' invitation and go wherever he leads us. When we surrender ourselves to the Lord and actively grow in our relationship with him, we discover true purpose for our lives along with the freedom, peace, and fulfillment that we long for so deeply. This call extends to our children and those around us, to whom we play a pivotal role in leading toward Christ and the Catholic Church that he founded. All of us want the very best for our children. We want them to know their worth in the eyes of God, to make good choices, to live out the truth, and to be authentically happy both now and forever. This is why we strive to help them discover the timeless truths of the Catholic Faith and to experience a real, personal encounter with our Lord who never ceases to call us to himself.

As a parent, no one plays a more influential role in a child's life than you. Trends demonstrate that when parents develop their own faith and model it to their children, their children are much more likely to follow their footsteps and continue practicing their faith as they grow into adulthood. Today, as younger generations are facing unprecedented challenges to their faith and morals, there is a tremendous need for this. As your child goes through the most formative years in their faith development, the most valuable thing you can do is continue to invest in your own faith as an adult. This in turn, will provide a deeper contribution to your child's faith than our children's faith formation programs ever could. We want your children's faith experience to take root in their lives—and know that you do too—which is why we invite each parent to join their child in faith formation by committing to the following:

- 1) To live out your Catholic Faith by attending weekly Mass, as well as engaging in daily prayer and frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**
- 2) To grow in your Catholic Faith by proactively investing in your own faith formation within our parish community. St. Brendan offers a number of worthwhile opportunities for adults including Walking with Purpose, Adult Bible Studies, That Man is You, and weekly Eucharistic Adoration.**
- 3) To serve others in our parish community through offering your time, talent and treasure. The mission of St. Brendan is one we all share together—when each of us contributes to this mission, everyone benefits and our parish thrives!**

Thank you for responding to the call to serve as the primary teachers of your children. We want to be the best secondary teachers as well, so please always feel free to reach out to us for assistance when needed.

Together, as we look forward to this coming year, let us pray that the youth of our parish would continue to draw closer to Jesus and build a life-long foundation for their faith!

Enclosed with this letter you will find important details regarding the 2018-2019 catechetical year. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us.

Please be assured that you and your families are in our prayers,

Joshua Kilmer
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

General Information about Home Faith

Below is a summary of general information for Home Faith this year. For additional information, please see the **Home Faith Parent Policy Handbook**, which is available at <https://stbrendans.net/childrens-faith-formation/homefaith/>. Each parent should be thoroughly familiar with the parent policy handbook. The handbook will serve as the go-to resource for important information about requirements and assignments, meetings, communications, and Sacramental preparation.

As a Home Faith parent you commit to:

1. **Attending all Home Faith meetings and completing all assignments throughout the year.**
2. **Using the lesson plans to teach your child the faith from home each week.**
3. **Ensuring that each child completes all homework and assignments**, including two mandatory online semester reviews for grades 1-8. Children in 7 & 8 grade will also need to complete weekly online assignments.
4. **Striving to become an authentic witness of the Catholic Faith by living and communicating all of the teachings of the Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.**

1 - 8 Grade Home Faith Meetings

Meetings provide communication, teaching, training, support, and opportunities to connect with other Home Faith families (*meetings are for parents only unless otherwise noted*). Most Home Faith meetings take place on Sunday afternoons. When parents arrive at each meeting/event, they will need to sign in first.

Parents participating in the Home Faith program are required to attend all Home Faith meetings throughout the year:

Each meeting will take place from 3:30– 5:00pm in the School Cafeteria:

- **ALL NEW PARENTS** to our Home Faith program need to attend a meeting on Thursday, September 6 from 6:45-8:45 PM in Wellnitz Hall **OR** on Sunday, September 9 from 3:30-5:15 PM in Wellnitz Hall. This one-time meeting is in addition to the remaining 4 meetings for the year.
- **Sunday, September 23, 2018** from 3:30-5 PM in the School Cafeteria for **Parents only**-Book/Material pick-up for parents begins at 3:15 PM.
- **Sunday, November 4, 2018** from 3:30-5 PM in the School Cafeteria for **Parents only**
- **Sunday, February 3, 2019** from 3:30-5 PM in the School Cafeteria for **Parents only. (The Parish Mission can fulfill formation requirement like last year) *see note below**
- **Sunday, April 7, 2019** from 3:30-5 PM in the School Cafeteria for **Parents only**

*This year, the **Parish Mission can serve as the 3rd Home Faith Meeting**, providing an opportunity for the whole family to live and grow in their faith together. This year we intend to resurrect the children's "mini-mission" to coincide with the Parish Mission. Stay tuned for dates!

Semester Reviews for Grades 1-8

- Students in Grades 1-8 are required to fill out online unit reviews that will be posted online at the end of each semester. Students will typically have two weeks to complete the reviews. Each review will consist of a series of questions based on the lessons that children will need to answer. We will notify you by Flocknote

or email when these reviews will be available. The purpose of these reviews is to help motivate learning as well as to assess student progress. Younger children will likely need parents to assist them in taking the review. The reviews are an important part of the Home Faith Program, so each family is responsible for completing the reviews on time.

7th & 8th Grade Weekly Assignments

- Each week there will be a short electronic assignment that 7th and 8th grade students will need to complete. An email blast will be sent out with a link to the video lessons and the assignment. Assignments must be turned in by or before the deadline. If a serious situation prevents a student from completing the weekly assignment by the deadline, please contact Josh Kilmer at jkilmer@stbrendans.net. There will be a three strike policy: if three deadlines are missed without a serious excuse, students will have to repeat the grade.

Lesson Plans & Additional Information

- Go to <https://stbrendans.net/childrens-faith-formation/homefaith/>. There, you will find our calendar and program news including per grade lesson/chapter listings that are being taught each week.

Communications

- Regular communication about Faith Formation will occur through Flocknote and/or email. If you have not signed up for Flocknote yet or need to adjust your settings to receive all, please do so at: <https://app.flocknote.com/login>

Scrip

- Do you want to earn a reduction in registration fees for Faith Formation for the next catechetical year? The SCRIP program is your answer. See the bulletin for more details!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

- Children's Liturgy of the Word will be offered during the 8:45 & 10:30 AM Masses (for children ages 4 to 2nd grade). During the first part of Mass, children will be invited to go off to a separate area where they will hear about the Mass readings and receive a lively teaching that is geared toward them. Then, when the Liturgy of the Eucharist begins, children will re-join their families. Children's Liturgy of the Word will be starting on Sunday, September 16th.

Special Events – Save the Date!

- Be sure to save the date for these BIG family events coming up this year! (*these events are not required but are highly recommended for all Faith Formation families*):
 - **Trunk or Treat** – Tuesday, October 23rd at 6:00 PM (*Families dress up, decorate the trunk of their cars, and come to St. Brendan's to hand out candy in the parking lot!*)
 - **Live Nativity & Advent Family Celebration** – Sunday, December 16th at 6:30 PM in the MPR

Home Faith Contacts

- Joshua Kilmer, Director of Youth Evangelization and Catechesis, ext. 231, jkilmer@stbrendans.net
- Bonnie Creeger Assistant to the Director, ext. 233, bcreeger@stbrendans.net