

***Holy Cross Parish  
Faith Formation  
Programs and Schedules  
2019/2020***



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# The Best of Both Worlds!!

## ***Holy Cross Faith Formation Programs 2019/2020***

Twelve years ago, Holy Cross embarked on a new process for Faith Formation entitled *Generations of Living Faith (GOLF)*, based on the program *Generations of Faith* that was developed by the Center for Ministry Development in Naugatuck, Connecticut. *Generations of Faith* is the product of many years of research funded by the Lily Foundation that sought to improve the faith development and education of all Catholics of all generations. The program involves bringing people of all ages together to learn, to grow in the faith, and to worship with the hopes that the entire parish would realize a closer and more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church.

The Pastoral team of Holy Cross continues to evaluate all of our programs to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our parishioners. The most important thing to consider is that all of us, but most especially our young people, need to be catechized in the faith if we are to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and to participate fully as productive members of this Eucharistic community, the Body of Christ. In order to provide the quality and substance necessary to achieve our goals, we will continue to combine the GOLF program and traditional style classes for our families and children.

The Holy Cross Faith Formation programs includes:

- One large family gathering held in the fall to begin the year (*Generations of Living Faith GOLF*).
- Traditional style classes for children grades 1 through 5 will be held on Sunday mornings from September to March twice per month for an hour and a half 9:30-11am. Additional workshops for Grade 2 sacrament preparation will occur throughout the year.
- Lenten Family Retreat – Sunday afternoon just before Lent begins.
- A large family gathering in March to end the year of classes, (*GOLF*).
  
- The 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:15 and includes attendance at the 5:30pm Teen Mass.
- The Confirmation program under the direction of our Youth Minister meets on Sunday afternoons. See separate schedule.

Of course, the quality and success of all of our programs will depend on you. It will depend on the number of volunteer Catechists (teachers of the faith) and aids who are willing to give the time to share your faith with our children and teens. Of course, we will do everything we can to assure that you are prepared.

Also, we want to stress that classes do not ever replace the practice of the faith and participation in Sunday liturgy is key to the faith formation of everyone. Also, we would like to thank the parish for your support as we always strive through innovation and new ways, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to bring our community closer to God through relationship with Jesus Christ.

I would like to share with you the words written in the Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes: The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*: "At all times the Church carries the responsibility of reading the signs of the time and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel... if it is to carry out its task."

Thank you all,  
God bless,

Anne Tarallo,  
Interim Director of Faith Formation

## G.O.L.F. (Generations of Living Faith)

As we prepare for the coming year combining GOLF with catechetical classes many ask what exactly is this Generations of Living Faith (GOLF) and where does it come from? John Roberto and The Center for Ministry Development in Naugatuck, Connecticut developed this new and innovative approach to faith formation approximately ten years ago. In 2001 the Center for Ministry Development received a multi-year grant from the Lilly Foundation to work with parishes across the country in implementing a lifelong, intergenerational, events-centered approach to faith formation. More than 1200 parishes have implemented this approach across the United States to date, many combine children's classes with parish events .

**Generations of Living Faith (we call it GOLF) is an innovative approach to parish wide faith formation, in response to the bishop's call that "adult faith formation must be the axis around which revolves the catechesis (education in the faith) of childhood and adolescence as well as that of old age."**

As Catholic children tend to learn more about their faith at home by default and example, it is imperative that parents are equipped to be models of the faith for their children. Faith is one of those things that is more easily "caught than taught."

### **How does the GOLF Portion of our Faith Formation Program Work?**

**Families and single adults (parishioners of all ages) will come together two to three times per year to participate in learning sessions that will enable parents to better model the faith for the children and to help each household become a true household of faith. Each 2 hour session will include:**

- 1. Refreshments – parishioners will be able to enjoy some refreshments while relaxing and socializing with friends and family.**
- 2. Opening prayer and presentation of the theme for the session. This may involve a speaker, video, dramatic presentation, or actual experience.**
- 3. Presentation of Materials and activities designed to "spark a faith conversation" for our families.**

### The Spiral Curriculum

**Our GOLF sessions and class sessions provide a spiral curriculum, meaning that each year the doctrines and concepts of the Catholic Faith will be covered and taught at age specific learning levels. The topics covered each year are:**

**Church year and seasons**

**Sacraments**

**Creed**

**Morality**

**Justice**

**Prayer**

**This coming year we will focus on Morality (The Ten Commandments)**

# Faith Formation Schedule Grades 1 – 5

In order to accommodate all children in our space, classes will be divided into two sections that will meet on alternate Sundays.

## Section 1 Students – Sundays (unless otherwise noted)

September 22 **GOLF Family** Parent/Guardian must attend **9:30–11:30am**  
September 29 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
October 20 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
November 3 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
November 17 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
December 15 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am

January 5 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
January 19 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
February 2 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
February 9 **Family GOLF Lenten Retreat 9:30-11:30am**  
March 1 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
March 15 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
March 29 **GOLF Session Families** Parent/Guardian must attend  
**9:30am–11:30am**

## Section 2 Students

September 22 **GOLF Family** Parent/Guardian must attend **12:30-2:30pm**  
October 6 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
October 27 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
November 10 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
November 24 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
December 22 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am

January 12 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
January 26 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
February 9 **Family GOLF Lenten Retreat 12:30-2:30pm**  
February 23 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
March 8 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
March 22 Classes 9:30am – 11:00am  
March 29 **GOLF Session Families** Parent/Guardian must attend **12:30-2:30pm**

**Sacraments:**

**The Sacraments of First Communion and Reconciliation are celebrated in Grade 2.** This is a very important year for both students and parents. Reconciliation will be celebrated in January and First Communion in May. Learning will take place through our family GOLF sessions, classroom sessions, and parent/child workshops that will help parents to actively participate in sacrament preparation.

**Grade 2 Sacrament Preparation Schedule**

*\*\*All children are expected to participate in classes and GOLF (see pg. 5 for schedule) as well as the workshops and celebrations listed below:*

*All families and children preparing for sacraments are expected to attend Mass each Sunday.*

**Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm** – Important Parent only meeting

**Reconciliation Preparation Schedule**

Parent/Child Reconciliation Workshop:

**Saturday January 11<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12pm**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday **January 25<sup>th</sup>** at 10am

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## **First Communion Preparation Schedule**

*Special Mass (with Rite of Enrollment Ceremony) at 8:30am Mass on **Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>***

*First Communion Workshop for at least one parent and child **on Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 11:00am.***

**First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday May 3rd at 12pm and 2pm (these times are tentative depending on number of children enrolled).**

**First Communion Rehearsal will take place on Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5pm and 6:30pm.**

## **Grades 6, 7, 8**

Our Middle School Students will meet in the Parish Center on designated Sunday afternoons **at 4:15pm followed by participation at the 5:30PM** Teen Mass. Lessons will be based on the curriculum of the text *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schooler's* published by St. Mary's Press. We will also feature presentations, interactive discussion through the use of technology and Catholic media for lesson enhancement. As models of the faith for your teens, we encourage all parents to join us for Mass.

### **Grades 6, 7, 8**

All classes meet from 4:15 until 5:30pm followed by the 5:30pm Teen Mass.

Oct. 6

Oct. 20

Nov. 3

Nov. 17

Dec. 15

Jan. 5

Jan. 26

Feb. 9 "Get Ready for Lent" GOLF

Feb. 23

Mar. 8

Mar. 22

Mar. 29

## **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Please join the children of Holy Cross Parish as they journey through the Lectionary (Sunday Readings) each Sunday during the 8:30am Mass.

Children ages 4 and up are escorted down to the Church Hall to listen to God's Word at their own age appropriate level followed by stories and discussion. The children return to Mass at the time of the Offertory.

This is a wonderful interactive way for our children to understand scripture and the Mass so that they may be more fully engaged during our liturgical services.

No need to sign up!

***This program will begin Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>!!***

# Confirmation Preparation

## Overview

As human beings, we are guided to good works by an immutable call to serve one another. That call is the voice of the Holy Spirit. Christ himself had the Spirit descend upon him in his Baptism, and the Spirit remained with him throughout his ministry. Jesus knew his time on earth was limited, and he assured his apostles that they too would receive the Holy Spirit in order to empower them to carry on Christ's message. On the feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit visited the gathered apostles, inspiring them to build a new church so they may proclaim the beauty of God's grace, mercy, and love.

From that time on the Church has imparted the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Baptism. As we reach adolescence, we must reexamine what the Spirit calls us to do in our everyday lives and how Christ's teachings will shape our lives in adulthood. That is why we have the sacrament of Confirmation. As confirmands you are the future of this Church. It will be up to you to keep Christ's message and the Spirit's call alive in the hearts of all men and women. This confirmation program is designed to prepare you to take up this task.

This will not be a class based on memorizing the doctrines of the Catechism or retelling the stories of Scripture. Rather, this class is designed to introduce concepts, offer guidance on how those concepts can inform us as Christians in the 21st Century, and above all, inspire discussion. There will be some readings to be done outside the classroom which will relate to the topics we are covering on the given week. The instructor promises these readings will not be boring and are not designed to tell students what to think on a given topic. Rather these readings are meant to help students contribute to the discussions we will be having every class.

## Curriculum

The confirmation program is divided into two sections: Confirmation I (Grade 9) and Confirmation II (Grade 10). Each section meets every

other Sunday from September through April. Each section will meet a total of 13 times. Class will start at 4:00 and end at 5:20, followed by Mass at 5:30. Students, parents, and volunteers are all invited to a social in the youth room following Mass.

Each class will consist of a 30 minute lecture, 45 minutes of small group discussion, and 5 minutes of final announcements. A breakdown of the class schedule and topics we will cover for each section follows:

## **Confirmation I**

### Basics of Scripture

September 29th: The Old Testament

October 27th: Acts, the Epistles, and Revelation

### Basics of The Church

November 10th: The early Church

November 24th: Structure of Church

December 15th: Understanding Mass

### Advent

December 22nd: The Virgin Mary

\*\*\**Christmas Break*\*\*\*

### Theology 101

January 5th: The Trinity

January 19th: Grace and free will

February 2nd: Sin and forgiveness *Catholic Moral Teaching*

March 1st: Intention-Based Ethics

March 15th: Confirmation 1 Retreat

March 29th: Catholic Social Teaching

## **Confirmation II**

### Knowing God Through Scripture

September 22nd: The Old Testament

October 6th: Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke

October 20th: Gospel of John

### The Saints

November 3rd: Theology of Sainthood

November 17th: The lives of the Saints

### Advent

December 22: The Virgin Mary

\*\*\*Christmas Break\*\*\*

### Moral Case Studies

January 12th: War and armed conflict

January 26th: Climate change and stewardship of the Earth

### Being a Catholic Today

February 9th: Holy Spirit 2020: How can the Spirit guide our  
worldview

February 23rd: Discerning your Vocation

March 8th: Finding time for God

### Wrap-Up

March 22nd: Confirmation II Retreat

April 5th: Jeopardy, feedback forms

\*\*\***Important Note:** Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for those who complete Confirmation II will take place between mid-April and early May. The exact date of the Sacrament celebration is at the discretion of the Bishop's office and will be made known to the Parish in mid-December\*\*\*

## **Service**

Service is an essential element of Christian discipleship. It is not enough to simply have faith. As songwriter Rick Mullins put it, faith without works is as useless as “a screen door on a submarine”. We are the hands and feet of Christ in the world, and it is up to us to make His message of love and compassion known through our actions. The confirmation program is a chance for students to serve their fellow men and women while learning the role of good works in faith formation.

There will be six service opportunities specifically for confirmation students. The Youth Ministry program also runs a monthly day of service. Both of these can count towards the confirmation program’s service requirements. Students must participate in **three days of service, one of which must be confirmation students-only**. Dates of service, opportunities, and details can be found in the Confirmation syllabus.

## **Retreat**

The Confirmation Program retreat is a chance for teens to reflect on their own experience with faith in light of what they have learned in the Confirmation I and II programs. The retreat will include small group discussions, opportunities for private prayer, as well as fun outdoor activities (weather permitting).

The retreat will run from 9:30 AM until 5:00 PM at Holy Cross Parish on March 22nd for Confirmation I and March 28th for Confirmation II. If a student cannot make their retreat, they may reschedule to the other confirmation section’s date. **If neither date will work, students must let the instructor know no later than February 1st so other arrangements can be made.**

## **Holy Cross Youth Ministry**

In addition to giving an overview on essential theological concepts and offering opportunities for service, the confirmation program is also a chance for students to deepen their engagement in the parish. The Youth Ministry Program runs a number of weekly and monthly events which are designed to help students grow spiritually, intellectually, and socially. Newcomers are **always** welcome. Whether a student is looking to engage in a lively discussion, perform music, or simply meet some new people, the Youth Ministry Program has something to offer everyone! A list of the various programs offered by Youth Ministry can be found at:

<http://www.holycrosseaston.org/youth-ministry/>

## **2019/2020 Program fees**

### **Students Grades 1 - 8**

**\$75.00 per student**

**\$220.00 family maximum (does not include additional fees for sacrament preparation and Adult GOLF).**

### **Grade 2 Sacrament preparation and GOLF fees in addition to Class fees:**

**\$20.00 per adult: Adult GOLF fee for meals and materials (this covers all 3 sessions throughout the year.**

**Grade 2: \$30.00 per child (covers cost of workshop materials and celebration of both sacraments)**

**Example: A family with 3 children with a second grader and two adults participating in GOLF**

**Student GOLF/class fee \$220.00 plus \$30 sacrament preparation plus \$40.00 adult fees**

**Total: \$290.00**

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### **Fees for Confirmation Preparation:**

**Grade 9 or year 1 of Confirmation prep: \$85.00 per candidate**

**Grade 10 or year 2 of Confirmation prep: \$120.00 per candidate (covers cost of food, retreat, and the celebration of the Sacrament)**

**Note: No person or family will be turned away due to financial hardship. Please contact the office (all financial information is confidential).**

## **Help Wanted!**

**Note: All volunteers must complete a CORI Check each year and one time training.** Please pick up a CORI packet asap.  
Training is now done online.

### **Grades 1 through 5 Classes**

Volunteers are needed to make each session effective and successful:

**Volunteer Catechist/Teacher or Aide** for classes grades 1 through 5: All materials are provided and we will meet before the year begins to make sure that each volunteer is comfortable and prepared.

- **GOLF sessions Help** Session Set-up and Clean-up: volunteers needed to help set up for meals and learning sessions and clean – up after each session.
- **Middle School/Jr. High:** Catechists for grade 7 & 8. Table Leaders to help supervise and lead discussions with our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Materials will be provided.
- **Children's Liturgy of the Word** – Each Sunday during the 8:30am Mass the children are escorted to the Church Hall to hear the Word of God at their own age level. This is a commitment of approximately six times per year for about 15-20 minutes. Again, this is a wonderful opportunity to share the faith with our young children. This is probably one of the most rewarding programs that we offer. Jesus is certainly visible in the faces of our young children. All materials are provided.

- **To volunteer or to simply inquire please call Anne Tarallo at the office or email [atarallo@holycrosseaston.org](mailto:atarallo@holycrosseaston.org) or sign up on the registration form. Thank you as always for your generous gift of time. All volunteers will be contacted in September.**

Also, we want to stress that classes do not ever replace the practice of the faith and participation in Sunday liturgy is key to the faith formation of everyone. Also, we would like to thank the parish for your support as we always strive through innovation and new ways, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to bring our community closer to God through relationship with Jesus Christ.

***Thank you all!!!***

***“It is within the Christian family that members are awakened to the presence of God and learn to pray and to form their consciences in light of the teachings of Christ and of the Church. Children learn by the selfless witness of their parents and other family members.”***

***National Directory for Catechesis***

***We look forward to a great year as we all continue our journey of discipleship!!***

**Please Note: All dates could be subject to change as the year and circumstances present!!**

- **Registrations will continue through the summer. Registration forms and the schedule for the year will be available in the office, on our web site, and in the vestibule of the Church at all times.**

# **Notes**