

A Proposed Re-organization of Children's Faith Formation

Julie Sutton, Director of Religious Ed

St. Michael Parish, Canton, OH

December 2017

Goals:

- To integrate the current Parish School of Religion and Families Together curricula to improve consistency of content/learning materials and experience.
- To allow for flexibility for families that have difficulty attending weekly meetings for religious education.
- To provide an opportunity for age level groupings to promote community among the children.
- To provide educational support for families who prefer a traditional classroom experience.
- To make it possible for families to attend either the 9:00 or 11:00 Mass in an effort to improve rates of mass attendance for students and parents.
- To provide community building opportunities from the families of the parish to get to know each other and feel more connected to the parish.
- To better make connections between church and religious education and family life in the home.
- To promote prayer, service, and family fun times and make explicit the spirituality present in every day family life.

Content: Families can choose from 2 options

- Families can choose to participate in the Families Together program as it exists.
 - Homeschooling using Pflaum Gospel Weeklies or similar materials
 - Monthly prayer, service, and family fun activities of at least 30 min. each, reported to administrators of the program. (supported by the website www.stmichaelcantonfamilies.together.weble.com)
 - 6 large group gatherings during the year for learning, social time, and/or service around the themes of the Diocesan Curriculum for Catechesis.

- Families can also choose a hybrid Family Faith Formation program integrating traditional PSR and the Families Together model.
 - 24 Sunday morning grade level classes of 45 min duration held between the 9:00 and 11:00 masses using the same learning materials as the Families Together program
 - Monthly prayer, service, and family fun activities of at least 30 min. each, reported to the administrators of the program (supported by the website www.stmichaelcantonfamilies.together.weebly.com)
 - 6 large group gatherings during the year for learning, social time, and/or service around the themes of the Diocesan Curriculum for Catechesis.

Please be assured that while this programming model will shift more responsibility to families, it is not meant to be difficult or terribly time consuming. Everything your family does together can be spirituality and this is a way to help you recognize that God is present all the time, not just at church.

I have reserved the Fannon Center on March 18th during PSR class time to hold a meeting/listening session....bring your ideas!!!