

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, OSKALOOSA



FAITH
and
FAMILY
2020/2021 PARENT HANDBOOK



St. Mary Catholic Church
301 High Ave. East (Office)
315 1st Ave. East (Church)
311 1st Ave East (Fellowship Center)
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577
Phone 641.673.6680
www.stmarysosky.com

pastor

Father Troy Richmond
richmondtd@diodav.org
641.673.6680 - office
563.272.9809 - cell

director of faith formation and youth ministry

Samantha Ridder
oskystmarydre@diodav.org
641.673.0659 - office
620.200.3255 - cell

faith formation commission, chair

Shanna Smith
shannagr45@yahoo.com
641.660.9614

faith formation commission members

Amanda Lemke
Jennifer Feudner
Felix Lopez
Katie Rosvold, Secretary
Shanna Smith, Chair
Donna Tylkowski

MISSION *statement*

St. Mary Parish continues in the Diocese of Davenport under the guidance and leadership of the pastor continues the message of Jesus Christ that provides the foundation upon which a life of faith, hope, and love is built. We recognize our responsibility as a parish to provide for every member of our parish community lifelong faith formation consistent with the Diocesan guidelines and of the universal church teaching through the ministry of Word, Worship, and Service.

GOAL *our*

To promote and encourage: the proclamation of the message revealed by God which the Church proclaims, community in the life of the Holy Spirit, and service to the Christian community and the entire community.

FAMILY *faith* FORMATION

something different

This year brings with it opportunities to explore our faith in new ways. Many are bringing Jesus into their homes in new ways by watching Mass as a family, read scripture together, and find other ways to live their faith together amidst current limitations.

The Dioceses of Davenport in their guidelines for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry state, "A "traditional" classroom-based model for faith formation, where students gather weekly at the parish with a catechist, is not preferred at this time." While there is a disappointment in not being able to welcome our students back to class Sunday morning, there is growing excitement about the possibilities this year holds!

family formation

This year we are moving to a Family Faith Formation model. The goal of this year is to build the domestic church through prayer. This year we are challenging our families to take a look at their family's faith and take steps forward. That step forward will look different for each family in our parish. But together, we can help each other build up their family's faith and, in turn, our parish family's faith.

how are we going to do this

Families will explore a different theme of our Catholic faith each month. Resources will be available, helping families explore the topic through activities and prayer. Each family will be part of a small group. These groups will include 4-5 families that will meet once a month via Zoom or in-person when possible within the diocesan guidelines.

it's as easy as 1... 2... 3...

1.
Register
your
family!

2.
Your family
will be placed
in a small
group.

3.
You will
receive an email with
the monthly theme,
prayers, and activities
to be complete as a
family throughout
the month.

4.
Each month your small
group will gather (in
person or via Zoom)
to build community
through prayer and
support of each
others faith journey.

This year we are trying something new!
Communication is essential when starting on a new adventure. Please know that your feedback, comments, and concerns are crucial as we continue to evaluate and work to improve this program.

parent MEETING

join us on Zoom

Sunday, August 23
7pm
Meeting ID: 969 4246 2124
Password: SMOparent

join us in person at the Church

Thursday, August 27
6pm
St. Mary, Church
315 1st Ave. East, Oskaloosa



fully rely on God

Our middle school group will meet throughout the year, giving students grades 6-8 the opportunity for fun and fellowship.

frog coordinator

Cindy Abrahamson
641.660.2070
abefam2000@yahoo.com



summer farewell party

August 26 - 6:30-7:45pm
The Abrahamson's
2108 Carbonado Road

Let's get together one more time with the incoming Freshman and welcome our new 6th grade students!
Hotdogs, chips, and snacks will be provided!

SACRAMENT
preparation

baptismal preparation

Fr. Troy Richmond, oskystmary@mahaska.org, 641.673.6680

marriage preparation

Fr. Troy Richmond, oskystmary@mahaska.org, 641.673.6680

*Please contact the parish office a year to nine months in advance of your wedding day to register a wedding date and enter into formation for the Sacrament of Marriage.



confirmation classes starting

The new Confirmation class is for those students in 7th grade or older. Please indicate on your family's registration form that your child is interested in Confirmation preparation. Samantha will follow up with families wanting to begin preparing for this sacrament in September.



sacraments camp

Our youth prepare for First Penance and First Communion through our Family Faith Formation and Sacraments Camp. All students who attend Sacraments Camp are required to participate in Faith Formation.

SACRAMENTS CAMP JULY 26-30, 2021

First Penance July 28 ~ Family Picnic July 31 ~ First Communion Aug. 1

HIGH school MINISTRY

bonfire kick off! come meet fr. troy!

Sept. 9 - 6:30-8pm

St. Mary's, Pella

Join us for hotdogs, s'mores, and safe distancing fun! Carpooling will not be provided due to COVID Guidelines.

Weekly Activities

All weekly activities will take place on Zoom, links will be email out.

Prayer Options - Teens are encouraged join in when they are able. Prayer nights will be more reflective and relaxed. The Sunday and Monday prayer gatherings will continue in December.

sundays 7-7:20pm - keeping it holy

Start your week off right, with prayer! Each Sunday night we will be exploring different forms of prayer!

monday 7-7:20pm - saints for inspiration

Let your week be inspired by the saints! Join us as we prayerfully look at some of the lesser known saints and draw inspiration from their stories.

Discovery Options - Teens are encouraged to register for one of the sessions as there may be materials sent out. These sessions will build on each other, so we are encouraging weekly participation when possible.

wednesday 7-7:45pm - catholic social teaching

Discover the seven themes of CST with guest speakers from the community.

wednesday 7-7:45pm - Altaration

The Mystery of the Mass Revealed. Rediscover the familiar and the unseen truths of Mass.

fall schedule

- Week One - September 13, 14, and 16
- Week Two - September 20, 21, and 23
- Week Three - September 27, 28, and 30
- Week Four - October 4, 5, and 7
- Week Five - October 11, 12, and 14
- Week Six - October 18, 19, and 21
- Week Seven - October 25, 26, and 28
- Week Eight - November 1, 2, and 4
- Week Nine - November 8, 9, and 11
- Week Ten - 15, 16, and 18

*prepare the way
prepare your heart*

Advent Night of Prayer
Dec. 2 - 7-8pm

POLICIES *and* PROCEDURES

faith formation expenses

There is no direct cost for PreK-12th grade Faith Formation. As a parish, we feel it is important to offer this opportunity for our youth and families to grow in understanding of their faith and relationship with God. We want to make this available to all, even those who might not otherwise be able to afford participation.

Faith Formation does have expenses. St. Mary's ask families to consider helping when needs arise throughout the year. One annual way families can help support our program is through the Sweet Sunday Social Fundraiser. This event is our primary fundraiser for the Family Faith Formation program.

fundraising

Middle and high school students have opportunities to participate in local, deanery, and diocesan-wide events. Some of these events are more costly than others. Once your child has reached 6th grade, they can begin fundraising. Money earned through our fundraising events is divided proportionately between those who participated. These funds are recorded on an individual basis and available for future parish events.

Please consider participating in our fundraisers, as a youth earning funds or a participant attending these functions.

scholarship - activities

It is the desire of St. Mary's to engage as many people in activities as possible. We hope that no one is turned away from an event for financial reasons. If your family has a financial need, please do not hesitate to share this need with Fr. Troy or Samantha.

scholarship - graduates

St. Mary's offers graduating seniors an opportunity to apply for a post-secondary school scholarship. Applications are typically emailed out in February with a due date in April. It is the applicant's sole responsibility to submit ALL required components of the application and complete ALL questions asked on the form. Any missing documents or unanswered questions will disqualify the applicant. Recipients of these scholarships should be actively engaged in their faith and parish.

weather related concerns

All weather-related cancelations, for parish activities, will be communicated through Facebook, the parish website, and email.

If school is dismissed early for weather-related emergencies, all parish sponsored in-person events will be canceled or postponed. Scheduled Zoom gatherings will still take place.

Lead families will contact the families in their small group if an event is canceled or changed.

open door policy

Know that Samantha's door is always open. If you have any concerns regarding our faith formation programs or other matters within our jurisdiction regarding your child(ren), please contact the Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, Samantha Ridder at the Parish Office 641.673.0659 or via email oskystmarydre@diodav.org.

CODE *of* CONDUCT

romans 12:1

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."

Recognizing that we are ambassadors of Christ and His Church, our actions and words provide either a good or bad example. Each young person participating in St. Mary's activities of any sort is expected to abide by the following Code of Conduct. This includes church members, regular attendees, and visitors. Above all, remember that your words and actions should reflect Christ. By participating in St. Mary's activities, you represent Christ, St. Mary's, your parents, and yourself. What you say and do has an impact on others; we desire to have a positive one.

- Keep a positive attitude.
- Please show respect for everyone with whom you come in contact, by your actions and words, including members of your group and those outside of it.
- Respect the facilities. (e.g., do not throw or kick balls at the doors or walls; no standing, walking or running on furniture or chairs; clean up after yourself.)
- No obscene language, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or weapons. (See Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry if you need to take/use prescription medication during Youth events.)
- Public displays of affection while at church functions are inappropriate. This includes "hanging on" someone, excessive hugging, hand-holding, kissing, sharing a seat, or other obviously "romantic" behavior.
- For the safety and well being of all, every meeting and event has physical boundaries. Stay within those boundaries.

At no time will St. Mary's tolerate disrespectful or rude language or behavior directed at anyone, including other youth members or those in authority over the group. This includes church staff, chaperones, parents, and those involved in the operation of whichever location/event we are attending.

St. Mary's will not tolerate disruptive or unsafe behavior on trips or events. Disruptive and unsafe behavior includes any violation of the Youth Group Rules and specific rules imposed for that trip or event. The final authority determining what is and is not considered disruptive and unsafe behavior will be the Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry. Parents will be responsible for picking up any youth partaking in behavior deemed disruptive or unsafe.



diocese of davenport

The following policy and procedures apply to all clerics, adult employees, and adult volunteers of Diocese of Davenport entities. The Diocesan safe environment policies and procedures remain in effect.

Appropriate and ethical communication boundaries must always be observed when communicating with minors including, but not limited to, written communication, electronic communication, the Internet, online services, e-mails, instant messaging, online bulletin boards, social networking sites, social media, text messaging, podcasts, blogs, chat areas, and telephones, including cell phones. Any form of communication that is intended to

inappropriately manipulate a minor or that incorporates any suggestive language, suggestive photos, sexual innuendos, inappropriate personal self-disclosures, etc., is forbidden. This includes visual, digital, or electronic communication in any format. Inappropriate and emergency communication must be reported to a supervisor immediately. Chat(s) must only take place so that all those attending the session can view the chat dialogue. Communication to minors should be sent using an organization account and must include a parent or guardian.

virtual sessions

Links or connection information for virtual sessions with minors must not be posted online, for example, on websites or through social media. When using Zoom or similar online conferencing platforms, the link to each live session must be shared in advance with a parent or guardian of each minor in the session in addition to the dates, times, and reasons for the sessions. Parents or guardians can join a session at any time but should not contribute to the session unless invited by the instructor/moderator. Each session must also be recorded. The recording must be retained so that it can be reviewed up to 90 days from the end of the session.¹

Session attendance should be limited to those invited by using passwords, passcodes, registration or waiting rooms as part of the invitation. Students must be given the opportunity to join with only an audio connection to the session if the student cannot connect to the session using video.

Sessions should originate from a professional setting such as a classroom or home-office with nothing inappropriate displayed. Everyone on the session should be dressed appropriately. Sessions should occur between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, but end no later than 9 pm for older minors. The Internet and equipment capabilities of the participants should be considered in order to avoid the need to use cell phones due to connection costs.

No one may enter the session until the instructor/moderator begins the session. A waiting room may be used for participants before the session begins. Everyone should leave the session once the instructor/moderator ends the session. Questions regarding this policy may be directed to the Diocesan Director of Technology or the Chancellor.

¹ For example, Zoom recording size is 200MB per hour for video which adds up to 1 GB for 5 hours of recording. Free Zoom accounts require storing recordings on a computer hard drive; paid accounts can use cloud storage.

PROTECTING GOD'S *children*

Child sexual abuse is a worldwide public health issue. Child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse, is reprehensible—especially when the wrongdoer is affiliated with the Church. The VIRTUS programs assist the Church in being a safe haven for children and a messenger for preventing child sexual abuse within the Church and society in general. We seek to achieve this lofty goal through our child sexual abuse prevention program: Protecting God's Children.

protecting God's children program

Most organizations that work with children have some sort of child safety program. Through the Protecting God's Children program, we maximize those efforts by helping churches and religious organizations refine their roles as child-safe environments and empowering caring adults to protect children.

why does it work?

Child abusers seek to operate and abuse their power within nurturing, child-friendly environments where it is assumed that nobody would want to harm a child. Religious organizations of all faiths are an easy target. The Protecting God's Children program implements safety mechanisms that send a message to all abusers and potential abusers:

- Child abuse is not tolerated,
- Children are vigilantly protected,
- Victims are listened to, heard, and shielded from further abuse, and
- Offenders are identified and punished.

By utilizing best practices for training and loss prevention, the Protecting God's Children program helps make churches safe for all people—especially children.

how does it work?

Maximizing a church's role as a child-safe environment begins with making adults more aware of the ways children and adults interact with each other. The Protecting God's Children program educates and trains adults (clergy, religious, teachers, staff, volunteers, and parents) about the dangers of abuse, the warning signs of abuse, the ways to prevent abuse, the methods of properly reporting suspicions of abuse, and responding to allegations of abuse.

All VIRTUS training programs, including the PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN programs, are comprehensive and multi-dimensional—incorporating proven best practice standards for the prevention of child sexual abuse by clergy, staff, volunteers, and others who interact with children within the church environment. Our training programs incorporate live training, train-the-facilitator education, awareness videos, and ongoing web-based training through online training bulletins and training modules via our VIRTUS Online system.

using the church to protect children

For any organization, the best practice to prevent wrongdoing, including child sexual abuse, is to have an organization use its own people to facilitate awareness of the issue. The Protecting God's Children program begins with the training of internal facilitators individuals selected by the archdiocese, diocese, or religious organization to train other adults and parents on how to best protect children. We use facilitator-led awareness sessions and continuous online training so that participants learn the best methods for delivering their message, including the training for the Protecting God's Children program.

training adults to protect children

We begin by making adults of the Church that interact with children aware of how to protect children. Our Protecting God's Children program for adults is a three-hour live awareness session instructing adults of the Church that to protect children you must have continuous awareness and vigilance. This awareness session makes trainees understand the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five empowerment steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. Continuing online training is a valuable component of the Protecting God's Children program for the continued awareness of child abuse.

st. mary's safe environment coordinator

Samantha Ridder, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
641.673.0659 oskystmarydre@diodav.org



FAITH FORMATION *registration*

If your address is not correct, please update it in the space below.

PRIMARY *contact*

NAME:

EMAIL:

PHONE NUMBER:

PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT: EMAIL TEXT

SECONDARY *contact*

NAME:

EMAIL:

PHONE NUMBER:

EMERGENCY *contact*

Not listed above.

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

CHILDREN'S *names*

NAME, GRADE, AND DOB (PREK-12TH)

I authorize any representative of St. Mary's Church as my agent to consent to any emergency examination, x-ray, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment and hospital care which is deemed advisable by and is rendered under the supervision of a licensed physician or surgeon. I am aware that all attempts will be made to contact me first in case of an emergency and that this is ONLY if I or my emergency contact cannot be reached.

I consent. I do not consent.

I hereby consent to the use and release of any photograph that my child is in for promotional materials or news stories in St. Mary's Parish and the Diocese of Davenport. I understand that these photographs may be posted on the parish or diocesan websites as well.

I consent. I do not consent.

GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

DATE



FAITH FORMATION

registration



I would like to register my family for family formation. (Information on p. 3)

My family's preference for the monthly gathering would be: (Mark all that apply)

Sunday Morning Sunday Afternoon Sunday Evening

Monday Evening Tuesday Evening Wednesday Evening

Thursday Evening Friday Evening Saturday Morning

Saturday Afternoon Saturday Evening

I would prefer to meet each month during the

First week Second week Third Week Fourth Week Any

My family's preferred language: English Spanish

My family has access online materials. Yes No

My family is able to print monthly activities and resources. Yes No

My family can attend meetings via Zoom. Yes No

My family is comfortable attending in-person gatherings within the Dioceses safety guidelines. Yes No



I would like more information on sacrament preparation. (Information on p. 4)

I have a child(ren) grade 7th or older wanting to prepare for Confirmation.

I have a child(ren) grade 2nd or older wanting to prepare for First Sacraments.



I have a high school student interested in the following... (Information on p. 5)

Bonfire Kick Off - Sept. 9th in Pella

Sunday Night Prayer - Keeping it Holy

Monday Night Prayer - Saints for inspiration

Wednesday Night Discovery - Catholic Social Teaching

Wednesday Night Discovery - Altaration



join us on Zoom

Sunday, August 23

7pm

Meeting ID: 969 4246 2124

Password: SMOparent

join us in person at the Church

Thursday, August 27

6pm

St. Mary, Church

315 1st Ave. East, Oskaloosa