



ST•BARTHOLOMEW
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



2023-24 Sunday Morning Faith Formation Program (Pre-K- Grade 5)

St. Bart's **Growing In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.)** Faith Formation program serves families with children entering preschool - grade 5. We are interested in helping parents and their children grow in their faith by sharing resources, activities, and experiences that will provide a foundation to live as life-long disciples.

We'll begin with a **Welcome Back Kick-off Service Event, Sunday, September 24, 2023.**

The first weekly G.I.F.T. session **starts Sunday, October 1st!**

Registration opens in August.

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- [Pre-K/Kindergarten](#) and [Elementary program](#) meet **Sundays** from **9:00 – 10:15am.**
 - 9:00am – Breakfast offered**
 - 9:15am – Large Group Gathering – all grade levels.
 - 9:30am – Small Groups (by grade level) meet with catechists.
 - 10:15am - Session ends to allow families time to attend 10:30am Mass!
 - Can't make 10:30am Mass? Choose between Sat 5pm or Sun 5pm
 - At Home option. You can register for the program and receive resources to complete the weekly lessons at home as the program has an online interface.
 - Look for the 2023-24 Calendar link on the Preschool and Elementary Faith Formation webpages (st-barts.org/faith-formation).

*** The children look forward to having breakfast together! The menu varies weekly and includes options like: pancakes, waffles, baked goods, cold cereal, bacon, breakfast sausage, beverages, some sort of fruit or yogurt. Prepared by parents.*

- **Curriculum:**
 - **Grades 1-5:** [Word of Life](#) (Augustine Institute).
 - **Pre-K/Kindergarten:** [Allelu!](#) (Our Sunday Visitor).
 - Weekly sessions will be catechist (teacher)-led with helpers.
 - There are 21 total sessions that meet 3 times/month between Oct. - April.
 - If you choose to volunteer, you'll be discounted one registration fee off your total registration cost.
 - Volunteer roles are listed in the registration process.
 - If you know of high schoolers looking for service hours or Confirmation service, please connect them to Susie Osacho @ sosacho@st-barts.org
- Parents are welcome to stay in the large group space during the children's small group lesson time to join a Synod small group, share faith successes/challenges, discuss contemporary issues, moral life, and practical topics that help us all build a stronger foundation in faith.

- **Children's Liturgy of the Word:**
 - Offered during the 10:30am Mass, children between the ages of 5-10 years will leave the sanctuary after the Opening Collect Prayer and process to the chapel for an age-appropriate lesson.
 - Children will be given weekly activity sheets and return during the Preparation of the Gifts.
 - We are currently recruiting and training adults/youth to lead/co-lead.
 - If you know of high schoolers or young adults looking for service hours or Confirmation service, please connect them to [Susie Osacho](mailto:Susie.Osacho) at sosacho@st-barts.org.

- **First Sacraments Registration** (Reconciliation and Holy Communion/Eucharist):
 - **Baptized children in grades 2-5** who attend **public or home schools** should use the [PreK-Elementary Registration](#) form to register for First Sacraments Preparation.
 - Public and home schooled children need to be enrolled in both the Sunday morning and First Sacraments programs.
 - **Baptized children in grades 2-5** who attend a **Catholic school**, should use [the Catholic Schools registration link](#) meant for families with children enrolled in Catholic Schools.
 - All sacramental preparation (First Sacraments and Confirmation) are required to take place through a parish formation program.
 - There is a registration fee for parishioner and non-parishioner families to cover the cost of program resources.

- **Children's Choir to be offered - Fall of 2023!!!**
 - Children who enjoy singing who are entering **grades 3 - 6**, are invited to join the St. Bart's Children's Choir!
 - The children's choir will hopefully sing once a month, on **the first Sunday of the month (10:30am Mass)**.
 - The proposed rehearsal day would be **Thursday at 4:00pm** and is open to all children entering grades 3-6.
 - For more information, contact Director of Liturgy & Music, Justin Fields at jfields@st-barts.org

Questions/Feedback?

1. Respond to this email or contact Susie Osacho at sosacho@st-barts.org or call 952-473-6601, ext. 203, Wednesday – Sunday.
2. Stop by the Welcome Desk following weekend Masses to talk with Formation staff.
3. **Registration Deadline: Sunday, September 24, 2023.**

Thank you for making your child's faith a priority and for living out your call to **Grow In Faith Together**. It truly is a priceless gift!

Oremus pro invicem (Let us pray for one another)

Peace & blessings, Susie