

**Youth & Family Religious Formation
Plan for Pre-k - 5th Grades, 2024-2025**



Alyssa Salazar, Director of Youth & Family Religious Formation

Fatima's Little Flock (Pre-k - 5th grades)

What does “Fatima’s Little Flock” do?

The “Fatima’s Little Flock” will provide religious formation programs, resources, events, and activities that are designed to engage the youth in our parish and school community in grades Pre-k – 5th.

2024-2025 Religious Formation Program:

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies

The BEST and ONLY alternative to bulky, expensive textbooks, the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Faith Formation Program combines a complete doctrinal catechesis with the liturgical life of the Church.

The content of the program flows from each Sunday’s Gospel, and students learn their faith within the rhythms and seasons of the liturgical year. Every lesson goes home to involve parents (who hear the same Gospel on Sunday) making it easier for them to discuss topics with their children. The children gather for prayer, song, and an activity that taps into something they already know or have experienced and introduces the Sunday Gospel theme. They proclaim the Gospel together and then learn the related Church teaching and doctrine. Games, discussion questions, and activities reinforce the Scripture, doctrine, and life application.

This program will allow for children be more engaged in the mass because of what they learned at Gospel Weeklies. Thus, allowing their parents to enter into Mass more fully themselves. Gospel Weeklies involves the entire family and gives parents agency to bring their children up in the faith and in our Church each weekend at Our Lady of Fatima.

Meetings:

Meetings will be held once a month, for the first year, from 10am–11am, giving the youth and their families the chance to go to the 9am or 11am mass.

In between meetings, we will provide families with lessons to do together at home. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that “parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children;” and “through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children.”

Meetings Overview:

10:00-10:10am – Sign in and welcome children.

10:10- 10:20am – Present topic of the day, fun activity/game/songs.

10:20am-10:45am – Break into age groups, group lesson/discussion/activity.

10:45-10:50am – Wrap up lesson and close with a prayer/song.

10:50am-11:00 – Sign out and goodbyes until next weekend!

Registration:

- \$20 per child for the entire school year.
- Fees will help to cover the cost of purchasing the program and support all youth activities.

Calendar of Events: *Subject to change and update as needed.

2024 Spring

Sunday, April 14 - **Family Event** 11am Spring Fatima Family Mass

Sunday, April 14 - **Family Event** FFAA Annual Spring Picnic, the Parish Family Fundraiser

2024 Summer

Fridays – **Family Event** Movie Nights (Dates TBA)

Monday, July 22- Friday, July 26 – Vacation Bible School (grades 1st – 5th)

2024 Fall Semester

Sunday, August 4th – **Family Event** Booksac Blessing 11am Mass / Registration Kick-Off

*August/September - Trying to bring in a guest speaker for families/youth before our programs begin!

Sunday August 11th – Core Team specific leader training TBA

Sunday August 18th – Core Team specific leader training TBA

Sunday August 25th - Core Team specific leader training TBA

Sunday September 8th – Core Team specific leader training TBA

Sunday, September 15th – PARENT Meeting/VIRTUS TRAINING for Children

1. Sunday, September 22nd – FIRST Meeting, 10am – 11am

*At home lessons will be provided for families between sessions.

2. Sunday, October 20th – Meeting, 10am – 11am

*At home lessons will be provided for families between sessions.

3. Sunday, November 17th – Meeting, 10am – 11am

* At home lessons will be provided for families between sessions.

Sunday, November 24th – **Family Event** Christ the King Procession and Picnic

4. Sunday, December 1st – LAST Meeting 10am – 11am

*We will provide at home lessons for families to do together during the break.

Saturday, December 7th set up – Sunday, December 8th – **Family Event** Christmas Craft Fair

2025 Spring Semester

Sunday, January 5th - Registration for NEW participants

Sunday, January 12th– Registration for NEW participants

1. Sunday, January 19th – FIRST Meeting, 10am – 11am

*At home lessons will be provided for families between sessions.

2. Sunday, February 16th – Meeting, 10am – 11am

*At home lessons will be provided for families between sessions.

3. Sunday, March 23rd – Meeting, 10am – 11am

*At home lessons will be provided for families between sessions.

4. Sunday, April 13th – Meeting, 10am – 11am

*At home lessons will be provided for families between sessions.

5. Sunday, May 11th – LAST Meeting 10am – 11am

Sunday, May 18th – **Family Event** Priest blessing of children, families, and volunteers at
11am Mass and reception to follow.

Summer 2025

Fridays – **Family Event** Movie Nights (Dates TBA)

Vacation Bible School (Dates TBA)

Your Participation is the Key to Our Success!

Adult volunteers are required for the implementation and success of our youth programs. Please email the Director of Youth & Family Religious Formation, Alyssa Salazar, to sign up **TODAY** to be part of the Core Team for Fatima's Little Flock:
youth-family@fatimalafayette.org

What is a Core Team Member?

Very simply, a Core Team Member's "job" is to share Jesus Christ with youth. You don't have to be an expert on Scripture, and you don't need to have a theology degree. Your responsibility is to love the youth and show them that they are loved by God.

Basic Core Team Member Requirements:

A Core Team Member is an adult (18 years of age and over) who is committed to helping implement the Fatima's Youth Religious Formation Programs by serving as a leader through the giving of their time and talents for one whole school year for consistency. Of course, if you were not a member of the parish when we started you can join later in the year if you can commit. A Core Team Member **MUST** be Safe Environment trained, always follow diocesan rules for Safe Environment, and be up to date on Virtus training.

The following are qualities of a great Core Team Member:

- A love for Christ and youth.
- A desire to minister to youth.
- A heart that longs to accompany youth on their faith journey.
- A willingness to serve as a Christian role model.
- A weekly commitment Fatima's Sunday liturgy.

Fatima's Little Flock Core Team Positions for the 2024-2025 School Year:

Welcoming Leader (2-4 adults) – Welcoming Leader will welcome children at each meeting as they come through the doors and sign them in by distributing name tags. The Welcoming Leader will also collect name tags and sign out children at the end of the meeting. Can also serve as a Co-Catechist Leader.

Activity Leader (2-4 adults) – Activity Leaders will welcome and have an activity waiting for the children on their tables as they enter. Activity Leaders will lead children in a song or game in the beginning and end of each meeting. Can also serve as a Co-Catechist Leader.

Pre-K-1st Grade Catechist Leader (1 adult) – Catechist Leaders will be provided with the teaching guide needed to prepare for monthly lessons. During meetings Catechist Leaders will work with their Co-Catechist Leader and instruct them on ways they can help and assist the children. *Catechist Leaders must attend the mandatory training session!*

Pre-K-1st Grade Co-Catechist Leader (2-4 adults) – Co-Catechist Leaders will help Catechist Leaders by being ready to help in whatever way they may need. For example, helping children turn to the correct page in their books, asking children to be quiet while the Catechist Leader is talking, and everything in between. *Co-Catechist Leaders must attend the mandatory training session!*

2nd – 3rd Grade Catechist Leader (1 adult) – Catechist Leaders will be provided with the teaching guide needed to prepare for monthly lessons. During meetings Catechist Leaders will work with their Co-Catechist Leader and instruct them on ways they can help and assist the children. *Catechist Leaders must attend the mandatory training session!*

2nd – 3rd Grade Co-Catechist Leader (2-4 adults) - Co-Catechist Leaders will help Catechist Leaders by being ready to help in whatever way they may need. For example, helping children turn to the correct page in their books, asking children to be quiet while the Catechist Leader is talking, and everything in between. *Co-Catechist Leaders must attend the mandatory training session!*

4th – 5th Grade Catechist Leader (1 adults) – Catechist Leaders will be provided with the teaching guide needed to prepare for monthly lessons. During meetings Catechist Leaders will work with their Co-Catechist Leader and instruct them on ways they can help and assist the children. *Catechist Leaders must attend the mandatory training session!*

4th – 5th Grade Co-Catechist Leader (2-4 adults) - Co-Catechist Leaders will help Catechist Leaders by being ready to help in whatever way they may need. For example, helping children turn to the correct page in their books, asking children to be quiet while the Catechist Leader is talking, and everything in between. *Co-Catechist Leaders must attend the mandatory training session!*

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