# FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2024/2025

SAINT PATRICK'S & SAINT LUKE'S

### THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- To help you learn more about God so that you can deepen your own personal relationship with Him.
- To give you the confidence to speak about your Catholic faith with others.
- To help you as you guide your children in their own personal relationship with God.
- To provide you with an opportunity to spend more time with your immediate family and also with our parish family.
- To provide you with a short time for prayer and an opportunity to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

•Recall the Commandments are about love.

•Recall too that love between persons can be defined as "willing the good of the other."

And ...

•Finally, recall that love for God can be defined as "willing what God wills."

•The commandments are divided into two groups:

• The first three commandments have to do with our relationship with God.

•The last seven have to do with our relationships with our fellow man.

 The Sixth Commandment is "You Shall not Commit Adultery"

•The Ninth Commandment is "You Shall not Covet Your Neighbor's Wife."

•The Sixth and Ninth Commandments have to do with sexual morality, that is, with proper sexual behavior.

•Here it is important to keep in mind that all God's laws are intended to help us love. So too with the Sixth and Ninth Commandments.

•As has been said, love is "willing the good of the other. These commandments help us do with regard to our sexual behavior.

 Because sexual behavior is intended by God for marriage, and by definition is a private thing, conversations about these matters are easier when we speak in general terms. This we will do.

 In the beginning, God made us male and female. In other words, God made us sexual beings.

•As we look at ourselves, we see that as individuals, we are complete in nearly all things.



•As individuals, we can see on our own, we can breath on our own, we can think on our own and so on.

•However, in one area, we are incomplete and that is in our sexuality.

 In that area, we need the opposite sex to be complete. So, the question is "Why did God make us this way?"

•God has two reasons: Love and Life.

•First God said, it is not good for the man to be alone.

•Then God said, go forth, increase and multiply.

•It is not good for the man to be alone. The man needed someone to whom he could give his love, his whole self, someone who could understand and appreciate his love.

 In a similar way, is it not good for the woman to be alone. She too needed someone to whom she could give her whole self, someone who could understand and appreciate her love.

•Also, in God's plan, the man and woman (joined as husband and wife) would cooperate with Him in bringing new life into the world.

 It's noteworthy that each child born to them would be a living and everlasting sign of their love for each other.



 Since God made us male and female for love and life, and since these two reasons can only be accomplished within marriage, it means that at its most fundamental level, Catholic sexual morality prohibits any behavior that would separate sexual intimacy from marriage and any behavior that would separate love or life (or both) from sexual intimacy within marriage itself.

•When one gives himself or herself to another, that person promises fidelity to the other.

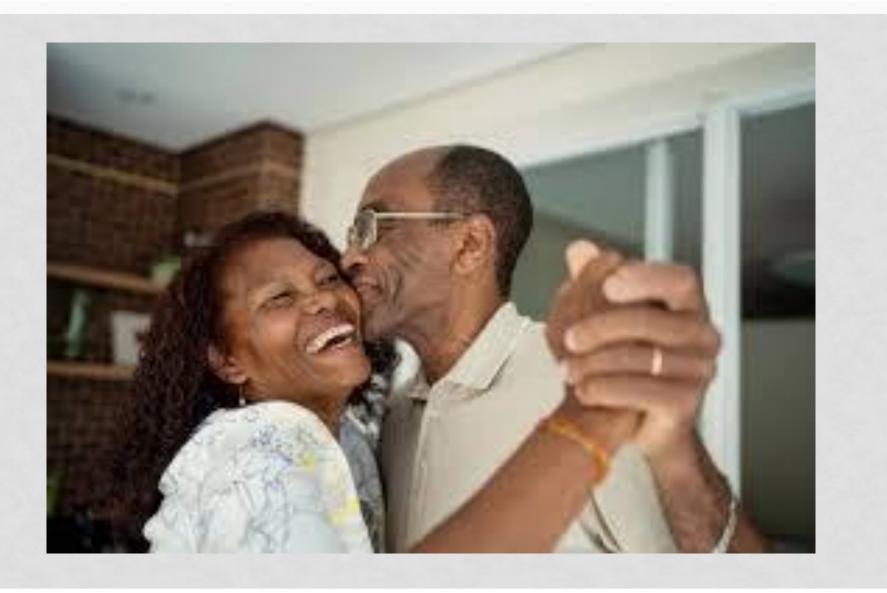
•This not only includes physical fidelity, but also in how one behaves in the presence of the opposite sex as well as how one thinks about others.

•Thus, for the married person, dating, flirting, touching and daydreaming about another is also being unfaithful.

•When someone gives himself or herself to another, they also promise that this gift be life-long.

•One does not marry for a term of five or ten years, but for life. Only death relieves one of the promise made to one's spouse.

•After death, the surviving spouse is free to marry anyone else who is free to marry.



•At their marriage, couples also promise to accept children from God, and to raise them up in the practice of the faith.

•Couple must be open to life, that is, willing to accept the children God intends to give them.

•It is morally permissible for couples to use natural means to plan their families.

•The essential properties for a man and woman to enter into marriage are these:

- They must be free to marry.
- They must both promise to be faithful until death.
- They must be open to having children.

•For Catholics, they must also marry with the Church's permission. To not do so would be a mortal sin, and their marriage would be invalid and not recognized by the Catholic Church.



•The Sixth Commandment calls on us to be chaste.

•The virtue of chastity involves mastery over one's sexual appetite according to his or her state in life.

•Chastity will be practiced differently by a married person than by single persons.

•Sins against the Sixth Commandment include the following:

•Married persons cannot have relations with someone who is not their spouse. This is called adultery.

•Married persons cannot use drugs or devices that would prevent the conception of a child. They cannot be sterilized.

•They can use natural family planning to plan their families. This method respects both the love-giving and life-giving ends of marriage.

•A single person cannot have relations with another person. This is generally a mortal sin, but guilt can be lessoned for various reasons.

To do so with an unmarried person is called fornication.
To do so with a married person is called adultery.
To do so with someone of the same sex is called sodomy.
To do so by oneself is called masturbation.

•Married couples and anyone else cannot use artificial means (in vitro fertilization) to conceive a child nor can they go outside of the married to do so.

•The use of egg donors, sperm donors, or surrogate mothers all violate the love-giving end of marriage.

•In vitro fertilization endangers the life of the child. It also normally involves producing "extra" embryos which are then discarded when the desired number of children is achieved.

•Finally, IFV treats the child as a thing and a right as opposed to respecting the child's dignity and rights as a separate and distinct human being.

•Modesty, especially for women, is part of chastity.

•To call attention to one's body and tempt others sexually is a sin.

•Our society has normalized and accepts and promotes immodest behavior.

•Note here that while society considers many forms of immodest clothing acceptable (bikinis, shorts far above the knee, the naked dress, etc.), these fashions are sinful and are not acceptable for Christian women and girls.

•Here is a rule of thumb. If your clothing causes people to look at your body rather than at you as a person, it's immodest.

•Pornography is a terrible scourge which causes us to see people as objects rather than as persons and to use them for sexual gratification.

•Pornography is dangerous and terribly addictive and should be avoided at all costs.

•Divorce is a sin for the one who is responsible for it. Often both are to some extent, but not always. In some cases one spouse is completely innocent.

•Divorce does not just happen. Rather, it is nearly always caused by sin in some form.

•Remarriage without an annulment would be a sin because one would be breaking his or her marriage vows and being intimate with another.

•Lust occurs in our thoughts.

•Lust is a sin against the Ninth Commandment.

•Those who lusts desires sexual pleasures and would act on their desires if they could.

•It is essential that we pray for purity in our lives.

•This is so because we live in a pagan world filled with sexual temptations.

•We must therefore take care that what we look at and what we listen to and talk about is pure. This is especially true when we go on the Internet.

# HOMEWORK

#### Parents at Home:

• Watch the videos on the Sixth and Ninth Commandments.

 Have your children memorize the Sixth and Ninth Commandments.

 Have a discussion about how to use the Internet.

## HOMEWORK

#### Parents at Home:

- Have a discussion about living together without marriage and sex outside of marriage (at appropriate ages) and make clear your expectations that your children do not do this.
- Have a discussion about appropriate clothing and the difference between drawing attention to our bodies as opposed to ourselves as children of God.

### HOMEWORK

 Ask your children if and when they are saying their prayers.

•See that your children complete any homework assignments they have.