# 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 Seventh Commandment is "You Shall Not Steal"

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

- •The Seventh and Tenth Commandments have to do with respect for our neighbor's property.
- •These commandments prohibit unjustly taking the goods of our neighbor. They also presume the right we have to private property, the fruit of our labors.

- •God has given the Earth and all that is in it to mankind for our use collectively. No one person "owns" the Earth.
- •However, the right to private property justly acquired must also be respected.
- The state cannot simply take someone's property without compensation.

- •The private property owner serves as a steward of God, making the land fruitful first for his family and then for others.
- •Private property stimulates industrious behavior because one is more highly motivated to take care of what is his.

- •Because private property owners are stewards of the land, they are called to leave it in as good or better condition than when they obtained it.
- •Private property owners do not have the right to destroy or damage or harm God's creation for no reason.

- •This is so because the land and those things that live in it belong to us collectively.
- •So, landowners must take into consideration how their use affects us all.

- To animals we owe kindness (except for mosquitos and ticks), and we serve as their stewards.
- •Animals are here for our use, and we can use them for labor, food or clothing, but we must not cause them to suffer or die needlessly.

- •Sins against the Seventh Commandment can be those which violate the common good and in essence "Steal" from us all.
- •Pollution, poor farming practices, not reclaiming mines, overharvesting plants, animals, birds or fish are all examples.
- •Those responsible for these things sin.

- •We are called to make legitimate use of our God-given talents, and so, human work is a duty.
- •We are called to subdue the earth for our own benefit and for that of our neighbor. We are called to contribute to the benefit of all.

- That said, we have the right to the fruits of our labors.
- •However, we also have an obligation to share with those in need. In many cases, there are people without resources who will go without unless we help them.

- This sharing is also true on a larger scale in relations between rich and poor nations.
- •These acts of sharing both on a personal and corporate level are works of mercy and are pleasing to God.

- •Note that to not work and to contribute to the common good is, in a sense, "to steal from our neighbor."
- •To not work when one can is to take advantage of the benefits of the work of others without contributing anything of our own to the common good.

- •The virtue of temperance helps us to moderate our attachment to material things.
- •The virtue of justice helps us to have a respect for the rights of our neighbor and give to him what is due, e.g., just wages for work done.

- •Sins against the seventh Commandment include theft which is taking the property of the owner against his will.
- •Exceptions would be when consent can be presumed, or when necessity requires it and it is the only way to provide for immediate and essential needs such as food, shelter or clothing.

- Other sins include
- Not retuning goods that were loaned
- Business fraud; , forcing up prices in times of emergency, manipulation the market to artificially inflate the price of goods
- Paying unjust wages
- Bribery
- Using public goods for private purposes

#### Other sins (continued):

- Doing work poorly or wasting time at work
- Tax evasion
- Damaging the property of others (vandalism)
- Insurance fraud
- Violating the terms of a contract

- •Restitution of stolen goods is a moral obligation for the thief.
- •If goods have been consumed or destroyed, their value in money must be given to the owner.

 This commandment also prohibits the enslavement of human beings. Treating people like merchandise is a grave offense against human dignity. Any system that sees man as simply the means of production is morally unacceptable. Basic rights of individuals must be respected.

- •The Tenth Commandment has to do with our thoughts and desires. Illicit desires are at the root of theft, robbery and fraud.
- •This Commandment forbids avarice and greed which are the inordinate desire and love of money or things.

- •The Tenth Commandment prohibits envy and jealousy.
- Envy is defined as sadness when something good happens to another.
- •We should not lust after things that do not belong to us.

#### **HOMEWORK**

#### • Parents at Home:

- Watch the videos on the Seventh and Tenth Commandments.
- Have your children memorize the Seventh and Tenth Commandments.
- Have a discussion about how one must respect the property and goods of others. To ask before taking.

#### **HOMEWORK**

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

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