

St. Madeleine Sophie Parish

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Schenectady, NY 12303
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FFO@smsparish.org



St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish

3040 Hamburg Street
Schenectady, NY 12303
(518) 355-4193
stgabriels.faithformation@aol.com

Dear Faith Formation Families,

We look forward to working with you and your children during the 2020-21 Faith Formation Program year. To enroll your children, please click on the Registration Form link that can be found here on the SMS and SGA Webpages. Please fill out and return it to the **SMS Faith Formation Office, 3514 Carman Road, Schenectady, NY 12303**. If you wish to complete the registration form online, contact us directly at ffo@smsparish.org or call (518)355-3115 so we can send you the “fillable version” by email.

Your Faith Formation registration fees can be paid in the following ways:

For SMS Parish - by check made payable to *SMS Faith Formation* or online at <https://smsparish.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/FaithFormationRegistration>

For St. Gabriel's Parish - by check made payable to *St. Gabriel's Faith Formation* or online at <https://stgabriels.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/FaithFormationTuitionPayment>

Registration forms are required for all Faith Formation youth, including those preparing to receive a sacrament. Preparation has not begun yet for First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation. We are making plans and will contact the families whose children are in grades that will be participating in the coming year.

Once your registration form is processed, we'll contact you to pick up your book(s). You'll receive instructions and resources to guide your children. The program will begin with online learning at home, coupled with opportunities for in-person or virtual sessions to enhance the Faith Formation curriculum.

If we do to have in-person sessions, they won't be held in the SMS School building for the foreseeable future. We can use space in the SMS Parish Hall and St. Gabriel's School building, as well as space in both Churches for some activities, both virtually and in-person. We're hoping to have Catechists and staff interacting with kids/families through ZOOM and the internet for the time being. We're planning to offer activities based on liturgical/seasonal themes that could include take-home packets or hands-on projects.

Last but not least, we'd like to address concerns families have about paying the Faith Formation fee this year. Because ours is a parish program, we rely on the generosity of our SMS and St. Gabriel's parishioners to stay afloat. While we may not be meeting in person at this time, we continue to put in the "behind the scenes" effort to provide options and opportunities that enables everyone to live our Faith as a Catholic community. Our staff has been reduced, yet we're still trying to handle many of the Faith Formation needs at St. Madeleine Sophie and St. Gabriel's Parishes. We realize that families are struggling financially and are also feeling overwhelmed; we don't want to burden you more than you already are. But the truth is, we can't survive without your support.

Having said that, we would never turn anyone away from the Faith Formation program due to financial hardship; if you need to discuss a reduced registration fee or are having any difficulties, please contact us in the SMS Faith Formation Office.

Thank you for your patience and we look forward to coming together again to share our Catholic Faith.

Be well and God bless you!

Donna Simone, Terri Bouchard, Nicole Kitrick & Joanne Tuchovsky - SMS/St. Gabriel's Faith Formation Staff