



2014-2015 MONTHLY FAMILY PROGRAM

Sunday, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. (The whole family!)

Corpus Christi Center (120th & Quincy Street) Revised 7/7/14

Very Important Information—Please read and save!!!

The Family Program is all about the family learning about faith together. Each month, the children, teens and adults have activities, speakers, videos, etc. on the same topic. It “kicks off” the month.

At the end of the evening, each family receives a Home Packet with activities related to the topic of the evening. The Home Packet is designed with one activity to do each week of the following month. The results of one of the activities is brought back to the gathering the following month as a small family project.

This program may be for you if.....

- * You, the adult, are committed to growing in your own Catholic faith.
- * You, the parent, are committed to influencing the Catholic faith of your child.
- * Life’s schedule is a little crazy for you and your children but you can make it to the monthly session each month, and commit to activities that you will do as a family at home during the month.
- * Your children have already celebrated the sacraments appropriate to their ages or are preparing to celebrate First Communion in 2nd grade or Confirmation in 8th grade.

Family Program Schedule

(The second Sunday of the month except May)

September 14	January 11
October 12	February 8
November 9	March 8 **
December 14	April 12
	May 17

*(**Note: Daylight Savings Time change)*

Our assumption in this program is that every family will be present every month. We have limited time together so each month is critical for building community among families and children, and understanding the content. Therefore, we ask you to put each date in your calendar now! If you know that you will miss even one month, you need to consider other programs for your child(ren). The success of the program depends upon regular attendance by each family!



Information for parents of children/teens preparing for First Reconciliation, First Communion, or Confirmation:

All preparation for these sacraments is done outside of the monthly Family Program. Within this program, we provide the following:

- * **First Reconciliation/First Communion:** We provide materials for home study and schedules of required parent meetings and parent-child retreats.
- * **Confirmation:** We provide a schedule of required meetings for you, your teen, and their Confirmation sponsor.

Families in this program also have the option of registering their child(ren) in a traditional sacramental preparation program in addition to the Monthly Family Program with no additional tuition cost.

Questions or concerns? Call Faith Formation Office 392-6700

Ricardo Valdez: Director of Faith Formation/Director de Formación de Fe, ext. 111

Guillermo Flores: Bilingual Coordinator/Coordinador Bilingüe, ext. 110

Kevin Hilgert: Director of Youth Ministry/Director del Ministerio Juvenil, ext. 108

Emily Alba: Administrative Assistant/Asistente de Administración, ext 109

Preparation for Sacrament of First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Communion

All children preparing for First Communion will also prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time prior to receiving their First Communion.



Required Preparation:

Child:

- * Attend sessions with parents over the course of the program.

Parents:

- * Attend three Parent Meetings spread throughout the preparation time. Meetings will focus on the theology and current understanding of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, ways to help you explain these sacraments to your child, and logistics about the celebration of these sacraments. All three meetings will be held on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the multipurpose room at St. Francis de Sales.

- * October 8, 2014
- * January 7, 2015
- * March 25, 2015

- * Attend Covenant Program (see below for details)



Parents and Child:

- * Attend First Reconciliation Retreat and Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, January 17, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon in the lower level at St. Francis de Sales.
- * Attend First Communion Retreat, Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 3:00—6:30 p.m. in the lower level at St. Francis.

Celebration of First Communion:

First Communions will be celebrated at all Masses on two weekends in the Spring of 2015. At the parent session on Wednesday, October 8, parents will receive a folder with detailed information about selecting the date of your choice for your child's First Communion. **If, for any reason, you do not receive a First Communion folder by October 31, 2014, please contact Emily Alba, Administrative Assistant, at 616-392-6700.**

Covenant Program



The Covenant Program is a day-long retreat from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is for **parents only** and focuses on the covenant relationship between your child and God as well as your own relationship with God.

It is required for parents whose children are preparing for Baptism, First Communion, and Quinceañera, and couples preparing for Marriage.

We ask that you **register in advance** so that we can plan for food and childcare. You can register by calling the Faith Formation Office, 392-6700, ext. 109 or on-line at www.stfrancisholland.org. If you have attended the Covenant Program in the past, you do not need to repeat it; just let us know.

Choose any one of the following dates:

- * Saturday, October 18, 2014
- * Saturday, January 31, 2015
- * Saturday, March 21, 2015

Sacrament of Confirmation (for students grades 8 and older)

All details about the Confirmation Program will be provided at the first parent/student meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Teens are required to attend this session with their parents.

Preparation:

Teens:

- * Attend all Family Program monthly sessions.
- * Attend Confirmation meetings with parent(s) and sponsor over the course of the program:
 - * October 1, 2014
 - * April 22, 2015
 - * A date in the Fall of 2015 (to be set & announced once the date for Confirmation has been set by the bishop's office).
- * Attend 2 retreats (December 6, 2014, and Fall of 2015).
- * Attend at least 5 "Common Ground" sessions held at Corpus Christi Center.
- * Complete at least 15 Christian Service Hours before June 1, 2015.
- * Complete the entire 30 Christian Service Hours before September 30, 2015.



Parents:

- * Attend all Family Program monthly sessions.
- * Attend 2 Confirmation meetings with their student: October 1, 2014 and April 22, 2015

Sponsors:

- * Attend 2 Confirmation meetings with their candidate: April 22, 2015, and a date in the Fall of 2015 (to be set & announced once the date for Confirmation has been set by the bishop's office).
- * Attend the Confirmation rehearsal and ceremony.

Common Ground

(for students grade 8 through 12)

Faith, Food, Fun, and Fellowship!

Where: Corpus Christi Center (Youth Room and Gymnasium)

What Time: 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Common Ground at Corpus Christi Center is a unique experience intended to further initiate the youth of our parish into greater participation through relationship and community building, faith sharing and participation, good food, fun, and an environment of support and welcome. This night is integral to the entire faith formation and sacramental preparation of your student.

The aim of these nights is to provide multiple pathways through which the youth of our parish can find their own personal direction to God in their journey in faith within the Catholic community of Holland, and further through the Church universal. These nights help to connect the teachings of the church with the issues students face daily in contemporary society.

Christian Service Hours

Helping our young people practice their faith in their daily lives is vital in their faith journey. As part of the Confirmation preparation program here at St. Francis, candidates are asked to complete 30 hours of Christian Service.

To help the teens see the needs in the many areas of their life, the 30 hours need to be balanced among three different areas:

- * Service within the parish (i.e. serving at Mass, childcare)
- * Service within the community of Holland (i.e. soup kitchen, nursing home)
- * Service within the larger national or world community (i.e. Mission Trip)

Some opportunities will be organized by the Youth Ministry at St. Francis, with some projects taking place in lieu of class during the school year. Ideas for alternative projects will also be given to teens and their families. Specific information will be discussed during our parent/student meeting on October 1, 2014.