



St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish / St. Madeleine Sophie Parish
3040 Hamburg Street / 3514 Carman Road
Schenectady, NY 12303

Dear Faith Formation Families,

As the school year winds down, we're reaching out to remind you that the essential responsibilities of the Catholic community are rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and detailed in Catholic Social Teaching. One essential task is to **Nurture the Family** where **"parents have a primary responsibility to build up the Church at home, baptize their children, and provide for their religious education."**

To assist you in sharing our Catholic faith with your children, **we invite you to enroll now for the 2026-2027 SMS/SGA Faith Formation Program.**

If your children haven't participated in one or more grade levels, we don't require them to make up those sessions as Faith Formation is not an academic subject but is a life-long journey. **However, children entering a Sacramental year (Gr. 2 or 11) who did not participate in the 2025-26 Program will need to complete relevant material prior to/during sessions beginning in the fall 2026.**

Faith Formation sessions will be held **in-person at both St. Madeleine Sophie and St. Gabriel's Churches, beginning in the fall. More FF program details will be available later this summer.**

If enrolling your child(ren) in this format doesn't work for your family, we also offer Independent Study at home for all grades **except Gr. 2 and 11**. This option requires youth to complete the grade-level workbook/materials and Chapter Reviews which are then submitted to the Faith Formation Office.

As always, we need volunteers to teach our parish youth. Please prayerfully consider serving as a Catechist or teaching assistant in our parishes' Faith Formation Program. You'll be engaging as an active participant in one of the essential responsibilities of the Church Community and will be sharing the true message of our Catholic faith with your family and neighbors. Resources will be provided to guide you, including Catechist materials that correspond to the grade level workbooks. We're always here to support you too!

Please complete and return the **2026-27 Faith Formation Registration form and fee to the SMS Faith Formation Office** by mail, email, or in person. Fees can be paid in cash, by check, or online at <https://smsparish.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/FaithFormationRegistration>.

If you know other families who would like to enroll in the SMS/SGA Faith Formation program, feel free to share this information. **To have your name removed from the Faith Formation mailing list, please contact us at your convenience.** Thank you.

In the meantime, have a wonderful relaxing summer and enjoy some quality time with your families until we see you again in the fall (but don't rush it! 😊).

May God bless you always!

Donna Simone, Terri Bouchard, and Nicole Kitrick

The St. Madeleine Sophie/St. Gabriel the Archangel Faith Formation Staff
(518)355-3115 / FFO@smsparish.org