

Formation K-12 2020-2021

Frequently Asked Questions

What options are available for my elementary school aged child this year?

Your elementary school aged child can participate in our Family Village model or our traditional Home School program. The Family Village option, as described in the video on our Formation webpage, consists of families being grouped into villages with 2-4 other families. The entire village (all adults and siblings from all families in the village) participates in the same faith-based activity together. Each village decides how and how often they want to meet, within the guidelines set forth by our parish. Traditional Home School involves the same curriculum as the Family Village model, but your family does it on your own, not with other families in a larger community. The curriculum used for both programs can be found here: <https://www.familyformation.net/>

What options are available for my middle or high school aged child this year?

If your middle or high school aged teen is an older sibling of your child who is already in a village, he or she can participate in the village meetings if he or she prefers to. Otherwise, your middle school or high school aged child has two options. The first is our Cross Train (middle school) or Cross Road (high school) program. Your child will meet virtually in small groups with his or her peers and two small group leaders. Your teen can also participate in our traditional Home School program, where your family completes the lessons at home as a family on your own time.

What is the new “Family Village model”?

The Family Village model aims to plant seeds for children and parents to meet, know, love, and serve Christ in their communities. The goal of this program is not only for children to learn from their parents, the first formers of their faith, but also to do so in community with other children and families. Each village consists of 3-5 families and 2 host families, who meet however and whenever they decide. The village participates in one activity all together, no matter the age of the village member. Each village’s kit of materials (which will be picked up monthly at the parish) will be customized to the needs of that specific village. These materials will include the lessons for the adults in the village to facilitate, as well as pertinent materials for activities, crafts, games, service projects, and community building.

Does this model take place in person, or virtually?

One of the beautiful aspects of the Family Village model is that each village has the ability to decide if they would like to meet in person (in a safe, socially distanced manner) or virtually. Each village is also encouraged to keep in consistent communication, and to change their plans based on the current health conditions. For example, a village can begin the year meeting via Zoom, and shift to outdoor meetings at a later point in the year if they feel comfortable.

I have multiple children in multiple different grades. Will they each be in their own village, or all in one?

All of the children in your family will participate in the same village. Families and family members will not be in more than one village.

How will the parish support families who opt for the Family Village model?

Our parish staff will provide customized kits of materials for each village to pick up before their village meetings. We will also have online Proclaim videos and teaching on the lesson topic for you to watch. Additionally, we will produce monthly Adult Catechetical opportunities. These aim to provide the parents and

guardians with formation around the monthly topic to be discussed in the village. After viewing this content and asking questions, parents and guardians will feel equipped and confident to pass on the faith to their children- the very beautiful vocation they said “yes” to on the day their child was baptized! Our staff will also remain in communication with host families to ensure all members of villages feel welcomed, included, and know what to expect.

I want to be in a village with my friends from St. Francis. How do I go about this?

The answer to this depends on if you are already registered or not. If you registered for Faith Formation before August 10, please fill out this form: <https://form.jotform.com/202175118088050>

If you registered for Faith Formation, after August 10, please fill out this form: <https://form.jotform.com/202184877825162>

These forms allow us to place you in villages that are the best fit for your family’s needs.

My child is in First Eucharist preparation or Confirmation preparation. How will that work this year?

We will still have separate sacramental preparation events for our First Eucharist and Confirmation candidates. That being said, if your child is in a village and in a sacramental preparation year, we will provide supplemental materials to your village to encourage an emphasis on sacramental preparation during your Family Village meetings.

What is the difference for my elementary school child between the Home School option and the Family Village option?

The curriculum will be identical, which means that both groups of children will learn the same concepts on the same schedule. However, the Home School option is a packet of materials given to your family to do on your own time, without a larger community. The Family Village option will contain these same materials, with additional extras for the age, stage, and needs of your village. These will include service projects to do as a group, community building games, activities, and prepackaged snacks for village bonding, supplemental options for preschool children, middle or high school children, or sacramental preparation children in your village, and more resources to ensure the deepening of community within your village during your meetings.

What is the difference for my middle/high school aged child between the Home School option and the Family Village option and the Cross Train/Cross Road option?

The Family Village option for your middle school or high school aged teen will involve a comprehensive overview of our Catholic faith that he or she will learn alongside his/her family and the other families in the village. He or she will take more of a ‘leadership role’, helping to facilitate activities for younger siblings, lead prayer where appropriate, or guide conversations among the younger children. Additional materials to ensure the content is challenging and engaging for his/her age level will also be included in your village’s materials kit.

The Cross Train/Cross Road model is similar to previous years’ programming, with the exception that it will take place online. Your middle school/high school aged teen will log on to an online platform, where he/she will listen to a lesson given virtually, and he/she will participate in a small group discussion with peers and 2 adult small group leaders online.

The Home School option for your middle/high school aged child consists of our parish providing materials for your teenager and family to engage with at home, on your own time and at your own pace.

Why is there a difference in price between Home School and Family Village option?

While the lesson topics are the same for both groups (Elementary only, middle and high school have a separate Home School curriculum), the Family Villages will be provided supplemental materials to allow for the village meetings to 'come to life' and engage all members of the village. Here is one concrete example: A home school lesson may teach on the rosary, and encourage the family to find a rosary they have at home to pray together. The Family Village kit would include beads and twine to make your own rosaries as a village, and a game to play as a village that encourages cooperation and community building while learning about the different mysteries of the rosary.

I would like to sign up for one of these options for this year! How do I do so and when is the deadline?

Great! To register, please follow the link on our website:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-formation-2020-2021/>

The deadline to register is 11:59 PM on August 23, and programming will begin in September.

I have already signed up for one of these options for this year, but I would like to switch to a different option listed here. How do I do so and when is the deadline?

Great! If you would like to switch your registration, you must complete this brief Registration Change Form found here: <https://form.jotform.com/202216329213040>.

The deadline to do so is by 11:59 PM on August 23.