

FAITH FORMATION

GUARDIAN ANGELS **GIFT** Growing In Faith Together



Program Mission: Engaging children, teens, and families in following Jesus and his Church through faith development, family, worship, community, and service.

What are the GIFT Programs?

Early Childhood for ages 3, 4, and 5 Sundays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Children grow in self-awareness and experience God's love for them.

Family Faith Formation: Grades K-5 1st & 3rd Sundays, 9:35-10:45 a.m.

We provide formation for all members of the family. During sessions, children gather with a teacher by grade while parents receive catechesis based on the monthly theme and guidance for at-home lessons. Some sessions will involve the whole family learning together. We use the Family Formation program, developed in the Twin Cities. Parishes throughout the country have seen abundant fruit for both parents and children in this program. This program is centered on empowering parents to respond to their call to be the primary educators of the faith to their children. Parent information meeting will be held August 18 and September 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the back of church. Please attend one.

Family Ministry Sundays, 9:40-10:50 a.m.

Family Ministry is a complimentary program to our Family Faith Formation program that meets on non-faith formation Sundays. Families continue to grow together and support each other as the domestic church. Activities range from crafts about saints, acting out biblical stories, throwing a Pentecost party, etc. Snacks are provided. This program is free to join.

Junior High: Grades 6-8 Wednesdays, 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Middle school is a time of transition for everyone. Middle school students are searching for answers to the big questions of life. Who am I? What is my purpose? In short, they are looking for Truth. Our middle school program seeks to assist youth in their search. The reality is Truth has a name: Jesus Christ. Our goal is to help introduce them to Jesus. Junior high nights include games, small groups, engaging presentations, discussion, and time for prayer. We use the Life Teen material as our base and tailor to the needs and interests of your youth.

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist Grades 2 and older

Children experience sacramental preparation with prayer, discussion, activities and full participation in the reception of the sacraments guided by parents. Preparation will be incorporated in the Sunday Family Faith Formation schedule. Parents are the primary formers of the faith and the large group sessions support the take-home materials taught by parents.

Confirmation for Grade 9+, TBD

Our Confirmation program is currently going through a revision process, as we hire a new High School Youth Minister. Those in the program last year will continue with the previous structure. For those looking to enter our program, the confirmation class of 2025 begins in January of 2025.



When will GIFT programs begin?

Programs are scheduled to start in person in October of 2024 and run through mid May 2025. Registration opens in August 11 at www.guardian-angels.org.

How can I volunteer in GIFT?

We need a variety of adult and high school youth to help with our Faith Formation Programs. You do not need to be an expert in the Catholic Faith to help. We will support you, resource you, and help you grow in faith while serving our community! Please contact Lukas Steffensmeier at lsteffensmeier@guardian-angels.org or **651-789-3162** for more information.

Questions?

If you have questions or would like to help us please contact Lukas Steffensmeier at lsteffensmeier@guardian-angels.org or **651-789-3162** or Deb McMahon for Early Childhood at dcmahon@guardian-angels.org or **651-789-3174**.

PROGRAM COST

- Guardian Angels Parishioners: \$50 base fee +\$50 per child. Family maximum of \$200.
- Non-Parishioners: \$50 base fee +\$75 per child. Family maximum of \$275.
- There is a late fee of \$50 per family after September 15.
- A 75% discount is offered to parents who volunteer in the programs.
- Scholarships are available for families with limited means.

