

What is Faith Formation?

Faith formation is a religious education process which focuses on the family unit.

As parents and/or guardians, you are the primary religious educators of your children. What happens at home—both positive and negative—provides lessons for life. In the family, faith is shared as part of the unfolding of daily life. The home or “domestic Church” provides a real place in which a child learns to *live and understand* his or her faith.

The religious formation team here at Ascension—pastor, director, youth ministers, core groups, and volunteer catechists—are all committed to providing the best support and supplemental program possible to the witness of Christian living you do in your homes. You fulfill your role as primary educator when you encourage, bring and support your child in attending liturgy and formal faith formation.

Our program consists of nine areas.

Imagine!—Kindergarten and 1st Grades

Catholic Kidz—2nd and 3rd Grades

The Buzz—4th and 5th Grades

CCT—Cool Catholic Teens
Middle School Youth Ministry

RUSH—Reaching Unlimited Spiritual Heights
High School Youth Ministry

CLOW—Children’s Liturgy of the Word

VBS—Vacation Bible School

Family Nights—for all children and parents

Sacramental Preparation—sessions for Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist

As a stewardship parish, there is no cost for religious education.

Sacrament Preparation costs are still applicable. No child will be denied sacramental preparation for financial reasons. If your family needs help, please request a scholarship. Donations to this fund are appreciated.

We offer a special welcome to older children who have not yet received the Sacraments. Our Confirmation preparation program is designed to prepare older children who have received the Sacrament of First Eucharist, but not Confirmation. For older children who haven’t celebrated Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist, we will be very happy to work together with your family to have a meaningful preparation and celebration. Please call Ken Blakeman to discuss your specific needs.

For More Information ...

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Church of the Ascension

Faith Formation And Family Ministries

Program Overview

Kindergarten through High School

Our Philosophy

Conversion is central to catechesis—the aim is to form participants into disciples who act with the mind and heart of Christ.

Formation is a lifelong process—catechesis is gradual, systematic and lifelong. We are touched and transformed by the living God and by the lived tradition of the community throughout our lives.

Faith formation is the responsibility of all members of the Church. The whole parish community is called upon to hand on the faith through faith sharing and the witness of daily life.

Imagine!

Faith Formation for Kindergarten
and 1st Grades.

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 'of the month
from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the parish hall.

Imagine! combines large group input and
experiences with small group crafts, motor
skill building activities and play.

We use symbols, stories, examples and the
shared liturgical life of our Catholic tradition to
help the child to an expanded horizon of
meanings.

We introduce the child to the seven major
areas of catechesis—Revelation, Trinity,
Jesus Christ, The Church, Morality,
Sacraments and The Kingdom of God.

At this level, perceptions, feelings and
imaginative fantasy are a child's principle
way of knowing and transforming their
experiences.

Catholic Kidz

Faith Formation for 2nd and 3rd Grades.

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays' of the month
from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the parish hall.

Catholic Kidz combines large group input and
experiences with small group crafts, activities,
discussion and play.

The focus is on Catholic Christian worship
and living, and the making of moral choices.

We help children see things from perspectives
other than their own, widen their view of the
world and develop their qualities of empathy
and compassion.

We challenge the child to see his or her words,
thoughts, and actions through the lens of the
gospel and Church teachings.

The Buzz

Faith Formation for 4th and 5th Grades.

Meets the 1st Friday of the month from 6:00 pm
to 9:00 pm in the parish hall.

The Buzz meets the educational, spiritual,
emotional and social needs of pre-teens in
one exciting ministry!

The Buzz helps the child interact with the
world to learn abstract theological concepts.

The Buzz Kids grow in their prayer, play,
small group discussion, creative and artistic
projects, community service and physical
activity.

CCT—Cool Catholic Teens

Faith Formation for Middle School Teens.

Meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays' of the month
(right after the 5:00 pm liturgy) from 6:00 pm to
7:30 pm in the parish hall teen room.

We help younger teens to grow in their own
spiritual faith and with each other by sharing
their values, beliefs, gifts and talents with
their peers.

CCT includes education, community service,
outreach and social activities, plus retreats.

RUSH—Reaching Unlimited Spiritual Heights

Faith Formation for High School Teens.

Meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays' of the month
(right after the 5:00 pm liturgy) from 6:00 pm to
8:00 pm in the parish hall teen room.

We help teens to examine and make critical
choices about the defining elements—their
beliefs, values, commitments and
accountability— of their identity and faith.

RUSH includes education, community service,
Outreach and social activities, plus retreats.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Scripture Formation

The "Proclamation of the Word" part of Sunday
liturgy for children age 4 through 5th grade.

Offered at the 10:00 am and 5:00 pm Sunday
Masses.

Children are sent forth with catechists during the
Mass for about 20 minutes.

Children hear, discuss and pray the Sunday
readings and learn how to apply them to their lives.

Vacation Bible School

High Seas Expedition 2010
Summer Multi-Generational Ministry Week

Crew membership is for children Age 4 – 5th grade
Crew and station leadership is for all parishioners—
middle school teens, high school teens, young
adults, parents and grandparents.

Children learn about God's love by spending time in
music, crafts, drama, games, snacks preparation,
and outreach activities.

Family Nights

Faith Formation and Fun for Families

Evenings of fun and formation for children and their
families. Check the Faith Formation Calendar.

Sacrament Preparation

Sacramental Life of the Church

Parents/guardians determine the readiness of their
children and are responsible for initiating their
children into the Sacramental Life of the Church.

In the Diocese of Phoenix ,preparation occurs:
2nd Grade—First Reconciliation (Confession)
3rd Grade—Confirmation and First Eucharist

Parental participation is required and sacramental
preparation is in addition to other formation
programs.