

Important Notes— Please Read

- **Mass:** The celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass) is the central point around which parish life and Faith Formation flow. **Regular, weekly participation in the Mass is a must** for families growing in faith.
- **Home:** Make faith part of the rhythms of life at home. We partner with YOU to fully form your child in faith by supplementing your strong faith-life at home with our formation twice monthly. This is why we encourage you come to Adult Formation sessions, get to know your peers and other parents, attend Mass regularly (even if you don't completely understand it), develop a family practice of praying together and participating in the life of the parish community together, and talk about God, spirituality, and religion with your kids. We can help with this! All questions are welcome—we are learning how to parent Faithfully together.
- **Participation:** ~**Two absences** for children are allowed— make up work is expected and provided. ~**Parents** of children enrolled in Footsteps in Faith are asked to attend at least half of the parent sessions offered. ~For **child absences**, please notify the Faith Formation Office out of courtesy for your Catechist.
- **You need five Family Faith events** by Easter Sun in order to meet the diocesan min. of formation hours for your child. Without these, the year cannot be considered complete.
- **Sacraments:** Students in 2nd grade and up who regularly participate in Mass and completed the previous year of Faith Formation are invited to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist this year. Just like all other students, these may not miss more than **two** Footsteps in Faith sessions and also need **five** Family Faith events.
- **Program Procedures:** Notify us about medical, behavioral, and allergy conditions on the registration form. People with special needs are welcome— contact the Faith Formation Office to inquire.
- If any of your children have **allergies** to food, he or she should bring his or her own snack. Also let your child's catechist know.
- If a discipline or **behavior** challenge should arise, one parent or guardian may be asked to assist in the classroom or meet individually with the Coordinator of Faith Formation.
- At the **end of the session**, children are to be dismissed only to a parent, guardian, or parent-appointed individual, as per the third-party form. This form will be kept with the student's registration.
- **Other notes:** ~Footsteps in Faith Families must also be registered in the Parish. ~We do not discriminate. ~Alcohol is not permitted on campus when students are present. ~Please inform the Director of Faith Formation if a change is made to the child's custodial situation. ~We have a Safe Environment here at OLOL and encourage families to participate in our annual Safe Environment Program.
- For any questions, please contact Chelsea in the Office of Faith Formation at 239-267-7088 or Chelsea@ourladyoflight.com

Footsteps in Faith

Faith Formation for children ages PreK-5th
and their families



Our Lady of Light Catholic Community

Chelsea Plesko, Coordinator of Faith Formation
19680 Cypress View Drive, Fort Myers, Florida 33967
(239) 267-7088 Chelsea@ourladyoflight.com

Footsteps in Faith is a program for young families to grow in knowledge, love, and understanding of the Catholic Faith together.

It is comprised of the following elements:

- Meetings offered 2x a month to complete Footsteps in Faith curriculum
- Family Faith events offered throughout the year

Footsteps in Faith Meetings

- During the first meeting of the month, children attend a grade specific class (PreK-5th), and parents attend a class at that same time. Each class, including the parent class, will cover the same topic at the appropriate level. The parent class also includes ideas on how to guide children through prayers and activities at home based on the month's topic. By covering the same topic each month, this allows families to learn together.
- The second meeting of the month is held in the Parish Center. Families stay together for this meeting and work in small groups with other families to complete the second lesson of the month. Catechists will be there for assistance. The second lesson may also be completed at home.
- Children who are absent complete the lessons at home with their families.

Formats for Footsteps in Faith

We have two formats for children's Footsteps in Faith, and they both have the **family** at heart. ~We do not offer drop-off programs.~

- A) **In-person classes** - Choose your session: Sunday 8:45-10:15AM *OR* Wednesdays at 6:00-7:30PM. See the section above with details regarding Footsteps in Faith Meetings.
- B) **At-home classes**—The curriculum covered at our Footsteps meetings is instead completed entirely at home with regular check-ins to the Office and formation for parents throughout the year.

Both options do have the expectation that families participate in Family Faith Events.

To register for Footsteps in Faith, visit www.ourladyoflight.com/children
When registering, families can sign up for Sunday or Wednesday classes or at-home faith formation.

Family Faith Events

***Each student needs 5 of these by Easter

In addition to Footsteps in Faith curriculum, families are asked to attend any five events of their choice throughout the year. These events can be anything from trunk or treat, service projects, events about the Saints, movie nights, fish fries, and more. Calendars with events and registration details will be distributed at the parent meeting.

Parents, Grandparents, Friends—opportunities to serve

- Catechists and Assistants
- Event Planning/Service Projects/Community service coordination
- Technology & Social Media assistance
- Hospitality/Refreshments coordination and hosting
- Classroom Bulletin Boards
- Children's Liturgy of the Word Catechist or Assistant

Contact the Office for details

Meeting Dates for 2021-2022

The first class of the year is a mandatory parent meeting.

Please make arrangements to attend.

Sundays

- September 12
(mandatory parent meeting)
- September 26
- October 10
- October 24
- November 7 (Daylight Savings)
- November 21
- December 5
- December 12
- January 9
- January 23
- February 6
- February 20
- March 6
- March 13 (Daylight Savings)
- April 3
- April 24-TBD
- May 1

Wednesdays

- September 15
(mandatory parent meeting)
- September 29
- October 13
- October 27
- November 10
- December 1
- December 15
- January 5
- January 19
- February 2
- February 16
- March 2— Ash Wednesday
- March 16
- April 6
- April 27
- May 4