

# GATHER

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



Elementary  
(Preschool-5th )  
847-658-9339  
+  
Junior High/  
High School  
(6th-12th)  
847-658-7881

## WELCOME to the 2017-2018 GATHER Year

Dear GATHER Families,

Welcome to Family Faith Formation at Saint Margaret Mary. In a recent article about the GATHER program, one parent said, "Every session we come away with something we can work on as a family, or on a personal basis or in a larger community".

Here is an overview of a GATHER session: Every session will have a snack time. Snacks will be available until the opening prayer and family activity. Every family will be seated in the Gymnasium at tables. Junior High/High School will be dismissed first to move to the Ministry Center.

GATHER sessions have the following timeline:

15 min.: Gathering of Families, snack, music and pictures/advertisements

10 min.: Opening Prayer, inspirational stories, and intro to session activity

20 min.: Family Activity (Junior High Students dismissed to the Cafeteria)

10 min.: Fish Awards (K-5), Dismissal to classroom, Family Folders

65-80 min.: Adult Session when students are in classroom

Closing prayer will be done separately in either classroom or adult session. Parents will pick up Preschool-5th grade children from their classrooms, Middle School students will be walked back to the School Gym.

The GATHER theme for this year is "SUIT UP: Prayer-The Armor of God " taken from the Book of Ephesians 6:10-18. We will take each element of the knight's armor and explain how to "wear it daily" as we ground our family in prayer. We hope you and your family will continue to grow closer to Jesus as we journey together in prayer this year.

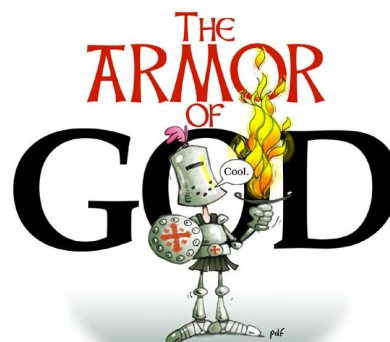
In Christ's Love,

Mrs. Ellie Nelson, DRE

enelson@saintmargaretmary.org

Mrs. Teresa Chiappone, DYM, AFF

Teresa@saintmargaretmary.org



[www.smmym.org](http://www.smmym.org)  
[www.saintmargaretmary.org](http://www.saintmargaretmary.org)

# GATHER SCHEDULE

2017

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION  
SAINT MARGARET MARY PARISH  
GRADES: PRESCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL

2018



## Families Attend Sunday Morning or Wednesday Evening

If you cannot attend your regular session day you may attend the other session; please call 847-658-9339 or 847-658-7881 in advance.

**Sunday Morning: Grades Preschool-8th Grade  
(with High School options)  
10:15am-12:30pm**

Child care is available for children 15 months-4 years old

**Sept. 17 Oct. 15 Oct. 29 Nov. 12 Dec. 3**

**2018: Jan. 21 Feb. 11 \*Tues. Feb. 27 (6 pm) March 4 March 18 April 8  
April 22 \*\*May 6 (4:30 pm)**

**Wednesday Evening: Grades Kdg.-8th Grade  
(with High School options)  
5:45pm-8:00pm**

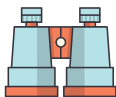
Child care is available for children 15 months-4 years old

**Sept. 20 Oct. 18 Nov. 1 Nov. 15 Dec. 6**

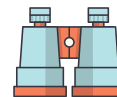
**2018: Jan. 24 Feb. 14 \*Tues. Feb. 27 (6pm) March 7 March 21 April 11  
April 25 \*\*May 6 (4:30pm)**

\*ALL FAMILY Lenten Reconciliation Service: Grade 2-High School- Tuesday, February 27, 2018 6pm CHURCH

\*\*ALL FAMILY Mass and Community Picnic- Sunday, May 6, 4:30pm



**EXPLORE 4 FAMILY EVENTS**

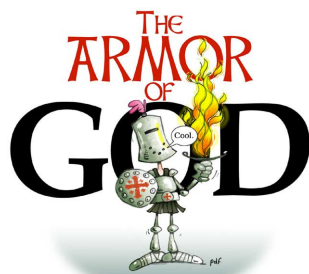


Explore 4 events are offerings by the parish that will enhance your families faith journey. At each GATHER session we will highlight several events that are family- friendly and great opportunities to deepen family prayer.

Save the Date:

**Advent Event and Quake Mass: Sunday, December 10, 2017 2:00-4:00pm followed by Family Quake Mass and Dinner**

**Family Movie Night: Saturday, January 6, 2018-5:30pm Pizza and Movie to follow**



## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

It is important that we begin on time. When you arrive at GATHER, you are greeted by Hospitality in the Cafeteria. Please take a snack/beverage and visit with other families in the Gym until we begin the Litany of Saints.

Under no circumstance should a parent leave the Education Center during the GATHER session. Catechists are not responsible for children until they are in the classroom



Elementary: 847-658-9339

Mrs. Ellie Nelson, DRE

[enelson@saintmargaretmary.org](mailto:enelson@saintmargaretmary.org)

Mrs. Marie-EllenHull, Coordinator of Youth  
1st-5th grade

[marieellen@saintmargaretmary.org](mailto:marieellen@saintmargaretmary.org)

Mrs. Petula Johnson, Coordinator of Young  
Children Preschool- Kdg.

[petula@saintmargaretmary.org](mailto:petula@saintmargaretmary.org)

Junior High Ministry: 847-658-7881

Mrs. Teresa Chiappone, DYM, AFF

[Teresa@saintmargaretmary.org](mailto:Teresa@saintmargaretmary.org)

Mr. Chris Gonzales, Coordinator of  
Junior High

[cgonzales@saintmargaretmary.org](mailto:cgonzales@saintmargaretmary.org)

Mrs. Sara Martinez, YM Administrative  
Assistant

[ymsecretary@saintmargaretmary.org](mailto:ymsecretary@saintmargaretmary.org)

## SAFETY

During the GATHER sessions, the doors in the Education Center and Ministry Center will be locked for the safety of your children. If you arrive late, please ring the buzzer and identify yourself to be let in.

Please read the signs on the bathroom doors in the Education Center before you enter. There are "children only" bathrooms and "adult only" bathrooms for the safety of the children during the GATHER sessions.

For students in K-5th grade, parents will pick their students up from their classrooms. However, students from Grades 6-8 will be walked back to the School Gym at the end of the session.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

Very seldom do we have disciplinary problems in the GATHER classroom. In case it is necessary, there are procedures we follow:  
First Offense: Catechist will handle the situation with love and care  
Second Offense: The student is sent to the RE/YM Office and the DRE/DYM talks with student and has a time-out. Parent(s) may be asked to come to the office and talk to their child.  
Third Offense: Parents are called to the office for meeting with the child and DRE/DYM.

## HOMEWORK POLICY

SHARE THE FAITH lessons (K-5) are homework that your child is expected to complete before the next session. For grades 6-8, the SHARE THE FAITH activities are meant to give families time to share faith experiences together and are not expected to be turned in as homework. SHARE THE FAITH Lesson Plans will be in the Family hanging folders for pickup at each session. If you miss a session, the lesson will be emailed to you. Since we are aiming to be as family friendly as possible (with only 11 GATHER sessions), it is necessary that your child completes the homework (K-5) BEFORE they return the next session.

## WEATHER

If we need to cancel classes due to inclement weather conditions, the GATHER leadership will contact local TV and Radio Stations. Your family will receive a phone call/email notifying you that the GATHER session is cancelled.

We DO NOT follow District 300 weather closing policy.