

GATHER Schedule

Saint Margaret Mary Parish embraces the concept of *Lifelong Faith Formation*. We offer GATHER as one way to foster community where everyone grows in knowledge of faith and communion throughout their lifetime.

Along with your Finding God Together Sessions, your family will attend two sessions of GATHER family formation to meet people and get registration information for next year. These sessions are Sunday March 10th from 11am to 12:15pm in the school gym and the "special event" on Sunday April 21st, 2024 starting in Church. We attend the St. Margaret Mary 4:30 PM Mass as a family after mass we will move to McDonnell Hall for a community dinner.



When and Where?

finding GOD together **sessions**

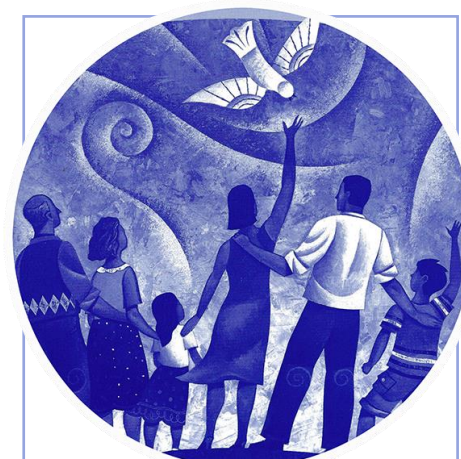
Saturdays: 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING

ROOMA TBA

**Families will attend FGT
Sessions for 1 year**

www.saintmargaretmary.org



finding **GOD** together

A family program designed to initiate children (3rd -5th Graders) to the Catholic faith & sacramental life.


ST. MARGARET MARY
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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saintmargaretmary.org/finding-god-together

What is finding GOD together?

What is finding GOD together?

finding GOD together is a family program designed to initiate children and their families (3rd grade or above) to the Catholic faith and sacramental life. Children attend finding *GOD together* sessions. Parents attend the Adult Formation sessions at the *finding GOD together* sessions simultaneously to support their child's faith as well as grow in their own faith.

At the end of the process, the child will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Communion, as needed. The year after, the child(ren) will resume in their grade level in the GATHER Family Faith Formation Sessions.

Why is finding GOD together needed?

We understand there are many reasons why a child has missed receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation or First Communion. finding GOD together *provides the opportunity* for catching up!

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that children over the age of reason (about age 7) cannot be baptized through the traditional *infant ritual*. The Church requires a period of instruction to prepare children for initiation into the Catholic faith.

At the Second Vatican Council, the Church acknowledged that Catholic parents are "first and primary teachers of the faith for their children". It also stated that parents must be instructed in the faith, so that they are capable of passing on this faith to their children.

Who should participate?

- Children who have not been baptized who are in 3rd grade and above.
- Baptized children in 3rd grade or above who have *not received* their First Reconciliation or First Holy Communion.
- At least one Catholic parent will participate in the finding GOD together Adult sessions simultaneously with your child's sessions.

What is required to register?

- If your child has been baptized, **a copy of their baptismal certificate is required.**
- Contact Teresa Chiappone, Director of Formation and Evangelization, at 847-658-9339 or email her at tchiappone@saintmargaretmary.org to determine the individual needs of the family as soon as possible.
- Register online for Finding GOD together sessions: www.saintmargaretmary.org.
- The office is located in the Education Center, 119 S Hubbard St, *please call before a visit.*
- The family must attend TWO GATHER sessions together: one March 10th at 11am in the gym and one on April 21st at 4:30 in the Church **and** finding GOD together sessions on Saturday's. At least one Catholic parent/guardian must attend the finding GOD together Adult classes on Saturday.
- ***finding GOD together classes take priority over sports and other activities. If multiple sessions are missed, you will need to meet with the pastor to evaluate your preparedness for the Sacrament.***

Calendar of Sessions

All sessions meet in the St. Margaret Mary Education Center unless otherwise noted.

9:30-11:30AM

Finding God Together Sessions:

2023	2024
Sept 16	Jan 6
Sept. 30	Jan 20
Oct 14	Feb 3
Oct. 28	Feb 17
Nov 11	March 2
Dec 2	March 16
Dec. 16	April 6
	April 20
Gather Formation	Sun. March 10: 11am Sun. April 21: 4:30pm

PLEASE NOTE Special DATES: Several other dates are set aside for the actual reception of the Sacraments.

Sacramental Preparation and Sacraments:

- ❖ **Saturday
Feb. 24 at 9AM:**
Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ❖ **Saturday
April 13th at 9am-12pm**
First Communion Retreat
- ❖ **Sunday,
April 28th at 4:30PM:**
First Holy Communion

Revised July 19,2023