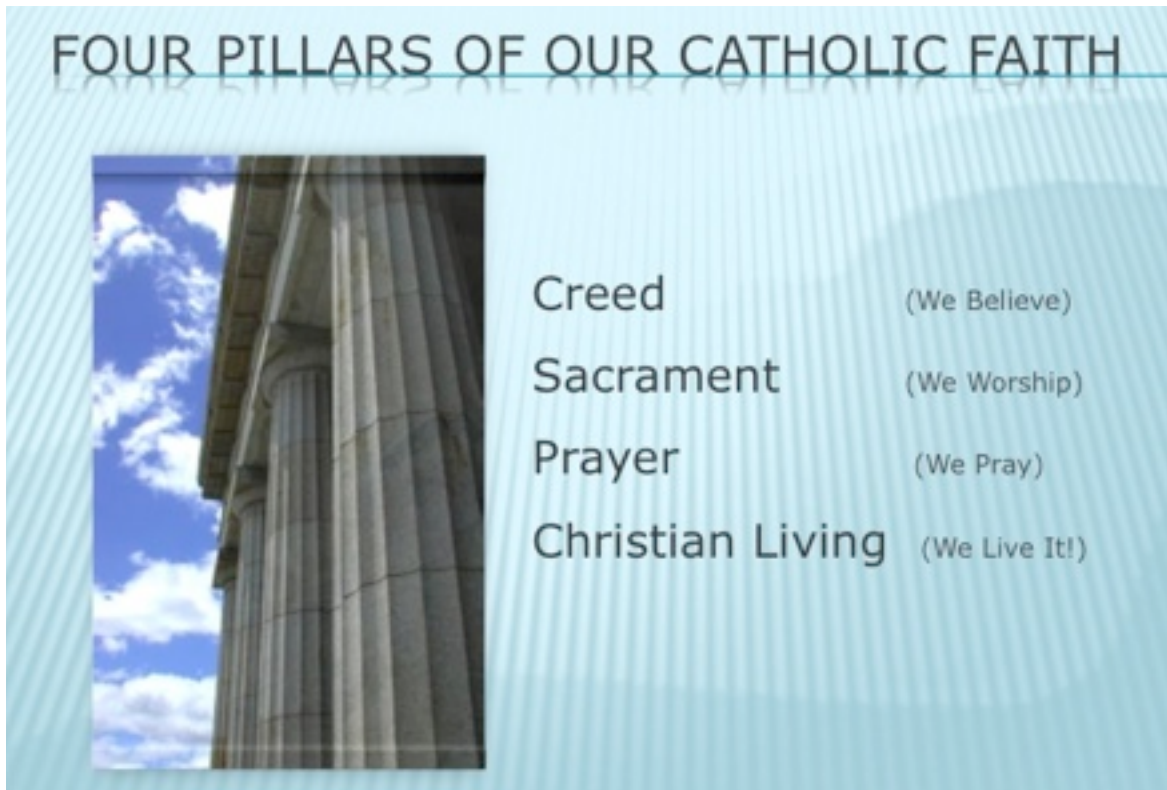


Explore Four

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:



What is “Explore Four”?

Explore Four is the “Life of the Parish” component of this Faith Formation program. It includes many ministry and Faith Formation events that bring us together to live out our faith in community. These events are listed on the “Explore Four: Life of the Parish Reflection Form” - available online, on the Faith Formation Explore Four Page; in the Faith Formation Office; at some events; and upon request.

The Explore Four focus orients us toward the Four Pillars of our Catholic Faith: Creed, Sacraments, Christian Prayer, and Christian Living. Choose events that fit your schedule, your interests, your family’s needs.

Find Home Connection Packets online on the Explore Four Page. The Home Connections provide parents with suggestions on how to further explore this topic/theme in the family setting. It provides other learning suggestions: websites, books, and more.

What counts?

Numerous events count as Explore Four options. Check out those listed on the Reflection Form. You will also receive email reminders about upcoming events. There is a place to write in “other” if you attend a **parish event** that is not specifically listed on the Reflection Form. Sacramental Preparation and Catholic Skills 101 classes count when a parent/sponsor attends the family or adult component of the program.

How do I register?

You can register for most events online at www.stjudes.org. Go to the “Event Registration” drop down of our Faith Formation listings. Please watch our email and bulletin reminders for special instructions for some event registrations, such as phone calls, etc.

How do you take attendance?

Most Explore Four attendance is taken through the completion of the Explore Four: Life of the Parish Reflection Forms. Exceptions would be Sacramental Preparation Sessions, where attendance is taken.

Why would it count for my child’s Faith Formation program if I attend an event like a Mom’s Retreat?

The Life of the Parish component of our Faith Formation program focuses on forming children to “live out” our Catholic faith. Parents matter! Parental involvement in a child’s faith formation increases not only a child’s identification with their faith as they grow, but the commitment to and practice of that faith as they reach adulthood. A parent can attend a prayer meeting or a retreat or any number of adult events and turn in a Life of the Parish Reflection Form for attendance credit for their children. The parent should go to our online Explore Four page to download the accompanying Home Connection page (For a Prayer Group or Retreat - choose the Christian Prayer Home Connection; for a learning event regarding Peace and Social Justice issues - choose the Christian Living Home Connection and so on) to share lessons regarding that particular pillar of our faith at home. Or pick up a Home Connection packet at the Faith Formation Office. Teach your child what it looks like to live out our faith in the parish community.

Where can I find more information?

You can find more information online at www.stjudes.org on the Faith Formation Explore Four Page, or the Event Registration page, or in Newsletters available on the Faith Formation home page. You can also call the Director of Faith Formation with any questions you might have. 815-463-4283.

