

Frequently Asked Questions

When do groups meet?

As a group, you will decide a regular meeting time. We recommend once a month and to make the time consistent such as the 1st Friday of each month.

What study resource will our group use?

FFM has a list of books, studies and videos that can be used for group discussion. Groups can also check-out resources from the Faith Formation office.

For groups just getting started, we recommend using *For Happier Families* from CFM.org.

Are children involved?

Each group decides how involved children are. Some groups meet with children in the home using babysitters or older siblings. Some groups involve children in service projects or recreational activities such as picnics and Christmas parties instead of the monthly meeting.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can we join an established group?

St. Francis has many FFM groups and some have been meeting for years. Many groups change membership over time due to schedules, relocation and other life changes. If you have been invited to join a current FFM group, that is wonderful! Make sure the group's leader registers your family as a new member to their group.

Each year we reach out to group members and ask if they want to change groups or if their group is looking for new members. If you want to join an established group, we will do our best to fit you in one that is open to adding members.

<https://saintfrancischurch.org/>
Click on engage, then hospitality

FFM@saintfrancischurch.org

Family Fellowship Ministry

Sharing life's journey with other faith-filled families.



WHAT IS FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY (FFM)?

Let's face it, raising a Catholic family can be challenging. Balancing faith in your work life and home life is difficult. It can also be counter-cultural.

Formerly known as Christian Family Movement (CFM), Family Fellowship groups are small faith building communities made up of 4-8 families who share a common goal - living out the Catholic faith in our families, homes and communities. Small groups meet regularly to pray, socialize and discuss issues facing families today.

Adult members meet in each other's home to discuss topics that are related to better living the faith, raising Holy families and developing Christ-centered marriages. Throughout the year, FFM also hosts large group events such as family picnics, speakers and date nights.

WHO CAN JOIN FFM?

FFM welcomes everyone! You could be married one year or fifty, a single parent or a couple with no children. FFM welcomes anyone who believes in the importance of Christian families.

HOW DOES MY FAMILY JOIN FFM?

Experience has shown that groups are more successful when they come together organically. **Do you know another family you would like to form a group with? If so, invite them and encourage them to invite one other family.** Quickly you will have 4-5 families which is a great number to start with. Often, other families will ask to join your group once it is established. Then it's up to your group how many families you wish to join. We recommend no more than 7-8 families per group.

Next, choose a group leader. Don't be intimidated by this title. The leader is simply the organizer of the group. Leaders will register the group with FFM, be a point of contact and make sure meetings occur regularly. We recommend members take turns hosting and leading the monthly meetings.

Register the group with our current group registration form found at <https://saintfrancischurch.org/engage/programs-by-pillar/hospitality/>

Host the first meeting. This meeting should be a meet and greet and to finalize the specifics of your group such as meeting time, if children will be present at meetings and choosing a study resource.

WHAT IF WE DON'T KNOW ANY INTERESTED FAMILIES?

We encourage you to take part in one of the many programs at St. Francis such as:

- Newcomers group
- Alpha
- Christ Renews His Parish Weekend Retreat
- Lil' Frankie's Playgroup
- Bible study or faith sharing group
- and many more

You also can fill out an interested member form found on the St. Francis website and we will do our best to find a group for you.

New groups form throughout the year but most start in the fall.



CFM families shopping for Christmas gifts for the Adopt-a-Family program.