

*St. Mary's Parish*  
*Office of Religious Education*

August 6, 2021

Dear Families in Christ,

I am excited to begin a new year with you and your children. It has been a trying 18 months since our "normal" was turned upside down. I pray this year we can reconnect in our Faith Formation. Read on to learn about the new things happening in our Religious Education Program!

Faith Formation is more than learning in books, it's more than attending classes, it is a combined effort of the church community with the parents being the primary instruments in forming your children in the image of Christ. We as the church community support, guide and encourage your child's formation as well as your own. Formation never ends and we all need a reboot in our faith at times.

In keeping with this understanding of lifelong formation, our Religious Education format has changed little from previous years. We will continue to use the Finding God series. One Sunday a month there will be a **Family Catechesis Gathering**. Grades K to 5<sup>th</sup> parents and children will gather for in a group meeting based on the Unit theme the children will be learning. The children will then go to their respective classroom and the parents will continue the topic in a more in-depth manner and through discussion.

**All Classes will begin September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Elementary K to 5<sup>th</sup> 10:30 to 11:45**

**Junior High: grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet 6:00 to 8:00.**

\*\*\*\*New for Grades 9 to 12. Sr. High Ministry is now called Youth Group and will meet on second and fourth Sunday evenings at 6:00 to 8pm, the same as the Jr. High Ministry group. ALL high-school students from St. Mary's parish are welcome!! Bring a Friend!!

Look for a post card in the mail!!

For this year we are not charging for Youth Group attendance unless they are going on a fieldtrip! There will be a snack donation.

**Please note the date change for the Spaghetti Dinner. it will now be held on Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>.** This is a great opportunity for Junior high students to accomplish their Confirmation Works of Mercy.

Youth masses will resume in the fall, we will have the enrolment ceremonies as before, the enrolment grade level will participate as greeters to the mass. The children's classes will write the Prayers of the Faithfull and we will continue to

collect food for Friend Food Bank. Youth Masses are a special time to unite the family to the banquet table of the Lord. Sign-in sheets will be available in the Gathering Area.

We will not be doing a bulk August mailing of the information you normally receive. The Calendar, schedule, class list, and Parent handbook will be available on the parish website by August 16<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not yet registered your child, registrations can be printed from the Parish Website, the instructions for online registration are available there too. Paper copies are available in the Gathering Area of Church on the pamphlet table.

Registrations are allowed on the first day of class.

**All families must fill out a Participation/Medical Information form. This gives us permission to have your child on the premises and informs us of your child's medical needs and emergency information.** –papers are available online, gathering area and on first day of school.

**First Family Catechesis Gathering; Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> 10:15 to 10:30 Elementary Parent Orientation Meeting to follow.**

**\*After meeting Parents, please report to your child's classroom at 11:30 to meet with their child's Catechist. \***

**Levels 6 and 7 Parent Orientation Meeting:** Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:15pm – 7:00pm social hall of the REC.

**Confirmation Meeting for all Level 8 parents:** Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:15pm – 7:00 pm social hall of the REC.

**Home-based Parent Orientation Meeting:** Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Religious Education Center.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties at this time, please contact me so that does not become an obstacle to your child's spiritual journey.

Thank you for supporting your child in learning about our Catholic Faith and growing closer to our loving God each day.

Be blessed,

*Ann Pergosky*  
Coordinator of Religious Education  
(610) 683-6454 [reled@stmarys.com](mailto:reled@stmarys.com)

