

St. Mary's Parish
Office of Religious Education

August 5, 2022

Dear Families in Christ,

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.

Grades 1 to 5 are changing over to a new program this year. 6th, 7th, and 8th will convert over next Fall. It is called **Word of Life** and is put out by the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press. Go to <https://www.wordoflifeseries.org/> for more information.

Sometimes it is hard to share our faith with others, even with our own family. As your family become involved in this series, whether in the classroom or at home your child and you will be able to grow in your faith together.

The lessons are connected to **Formed** an online faith resource that St. Mary's is subscribed to. If you haven't signed up, go to <https://formed.org> to do so, it is free to all St. Mary's parishioners.

We will be hosting fall and winter sacramental formation groups for all parents of children receiving their sacraments.

There will be two Family Faith Gatherings for grades 1 to 5, one for Advent and the other for Lent.

The online Home-Based program is very easy to access and work with. If you are signing up for Home-Based education, please note that it is **not available for the sacramental years of grades 2, 3 and 8th**. Also, the program requires 4 family meetings per year, plus a closing prayer service.

We appreciate the feedback of those who responded to our June survey regarding preferences for religious ed day and time. All responses were considered carefully, but the widespread sentiment was in favor of keeping religious education on Sunday morning. We will continue to seek and listen to your feedback.

One change that we can implement is moving class time closer to the end of the 9am Mass. Therefore, we will tweak Sunday class time to be 10:20 to 11:30am, starting September 11. This may help with having to leave class early to attend other functions.

Please note: we will no longer be offering a Kindergarten program. We encourage parents of Kindergarteners to work on their child's faith at home by learning their prayers in the morning, dinnertime and at bedtime and by bringing them to

weekend Masses. Whereby developing a routine of coming to God in prayer and worship. With that they will be better prepared for first grade class the next year.

Junior High classes grades 6, 7, and 8 meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

Junior high gets a break with snack. The cost will remain at 25 cents. Please make sure your child brings their snack money to each class.

**** Grades 9 to 12 Youth Group and will now meet on first and third Monday evenings at 6:30 to 8pm, unless there is a special event going on. ALL high-school students from St. Mary's parish are welcome!! Bring a Friend!! Their schedule will be posted on the Parish website under Religious Education.

To sign up you can contact the Youth Ministers Steph Behm and Katie Rauenzahn at stmarysktownyouthgroup@gmail.com directly or send a registration paper into the Religious Education office.

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

Please note the Spaghetti Dinner date will be forthcoming. This is a great opportunity for Junior high students to accomplish their Confirmation Works of Mercy. Junior High Parents will discuss a date at parent meeting.

Youth Masses will remain on the third Sunday, 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.

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, in the gathering area and on first day of school.

All Classes will begin September 11th

Elementary 1st to 5th 10:20 to 11:30 – Different start and end time!!!!

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

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR!

Sunday September 11th 10:25 to 11:15 Elementary Parent Orientation Meeting.

***After the meeting, Parents, please report to your child's classroom at 11:20 to meet with your child's Catechist. ***

Levels 6 and 7 Parent Orientation Meeting: Sunday, September 11th, 6:10 pm – 7:10pm social hall of the REC.

Confirmation Meeting for all Level 8 parents: Sunday, September 25th, 6:10 pm – 7:10 pm social hall of the REC.

The Calendar, schedule, class list, and Parent handbook will be available on the parish website by August 12th.

There are many changes to the calendar please carefully read for all the dates and times of classes, parents' meetings and retreats.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties at this time, please contact me so that finances do 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.

FINAL NOTE: Sunday morning help is needed to cover the office when I am involved with Parent meetings and Sacramental Meetings. You do need to have your Federal/State and Diocesan background clearances. Some clearance can used here if you already have them for your current position. There is no cost for clearances for volunteers. Please consider helping out.

Also for Junior High, a parent or two is needed to help with snack preparation.

Has your heart been searching to connect closer to the Lord? When you share your faith, you are able to strengthen and deepen your own. One avenue to sharing is to guide others in faith. Please prayerfully consider sharing yours as a Catechist for our Level 7 children. All lessons are guided, and background catechetical information is provided.

Please contact me for more information.

Be blessed,

Ann Pergosky

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