

August 2017

Dear Holy Family Faith Formation Families:

It is that wonderful time of year again! Fall crisp-ness is in the air! Our evenings are getting cooler, a few trees are beginning to show their glorious colors...and the mad-dash is being made to collect school supplies! Yes...it IS almost school time, and, of course, that means our Faith Formation program is gearing up to begin as well!

As you know, we welcomed a new pastor to our parish cluster; Fr. Ryan Moravitz joined our communities in July and has been instrumental in helping shape the future of our programming. Several adjustments will be implemented in hopes of being more "user friendly"- may your families embrace the new scheduling, and enjoy this year's Faith Formation program!

I am excited to see how this year plays out, and to receive feedback as we are striving to make our program as faith filled as possible and as encouraging to spiritual growth for *entire* families. You will notice- all of the young people will be studying the same theme each week. For instance, while a 3rd grader will be learning 3rd grade concepts about the Holy Spirit, an older sibling will be also discussing the Holy Spirit-at their appropriate age level. Father hopes this will help families facilitate faith discussions and further the entire family's spiritual growth. I think this is a beautiful idea- the more the family is involved, the more the faith will be lived!

Another adjustment—ALL kids grade 6 on up will **meet at 6:45p.m. -7:45 at St. Lawrence**. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend when they are able- faith formation is a *lifelong process*! Father Ryan will be teaching many of the classes for the 6th-12th graders, so it will surely be informative and interesting!

Speaking of 12th graders...You read that correctly! Father Ryan would **LOVE** to have the 12th graders continuing their spiritual journey as well. We strongly encourage them to join us with on Wednesday evenings! Please encourage your senior to take part in class as often as possible!

Wednesday night classes will begin in September and will meet from 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Families are invited to come early for fellowship in the social hall! From 6:00-6:45 p.m. there will be light refreshments provided. Come spend time with your parish family! Sunday morning classes will include ALL preschool-2nd grade students, and will meet from 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Each parish will have their own 1st Eucharist Masses; however, the preparation for these sacraments will be all in one location.

Sacramental prep families- including First Reconciliation/First Eucharist, and Confirmation: please note on the schedule that there are extra classes that focus solely upon the education of these sacraments. These classes are mandatory and our hope is to help your youth to gain a deep understanding of that beautiful sacrament.

MISSION TRIP 2018!!! We will begin planning for this event in September! Please watch your emails for more information- this trip will be in June and will be for young people going in to 8th grade on up...including college-aged students! Chaperones (21+) are needed—it is sure to be an amazing experience! Check it out!

www.aliveinyou.com Let me know what you think!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding our programming. Your patience and support is greatly appreciated as we move forward as a parish cluster—change can be hard, but it can also be beautiful...this is my prayer: that our Faith Formation Program may be one that is Spirit led and one that inspires all, helping nurture a love of the faith for all of our families.

Prayers for all as the young people head back to school!

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"Faith formation is more than a subject to be taught- it is an invitation to a way of life."

Joe Paprocki, Catholic author