

## Family Based Faith Formation K-8 Program for 2020-2021

*“If what we most care about is actually passing on the faith, so children remain Catholic, the crucial ingredient is the parents. It's all about parent-child "faith talk" and interactions. Studies on Catholic disaffiliation keep pointing to this.” (The Pastoral Center)*

*God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the parents of this child. They will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Adapted from Baptism Ritual Blessing for Fathers)*

After careful consideration and consultation with Fr. Peter and Fr. Joe, the Faith Formation team has developed the following program for the 2020-2021 Faith Formation year. In preparation for making this decision, numerous sources were explored to identify best practices. These sources include the Archdiocese, Directors of Faith Formation at other parishes and several possible programs. Due in part to the current situation with Covid-19 as well as the Church's desire to have parents more involved in their children's faith formation, the program will move from the traditional classroom-based model to a family-based model. In the family-based model, parents teach their children the faith at home during everyday interactions and during formal family lesson times that are convenient for the family schedule. The Faith Formation team will support parents in their role as primary and best teacher of their children and will equip them with all necessary resources for this task.

Our program focuses on building up the family faith and prayer life at home, and relies on participation in the Mass, parish life and parish events, and community with peer family groups at church (when it is safe to gather). We will be using a program called *Project Nazareth*, based on the domestic church—the home, developed by the Archdiocese of Boston. *Project Nazareth* is a weekly program that explores different topics through Scripture, family prayer and discussion, and suggested age-based activities. It is based on the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We also plan to supplement the *Project Nazareth* materials with other topics such as Saint of the Month, liturgical year (e.g., Advent, Lent, Feast Days), and topics that would have been covered in traditional grade-level classes (e.g., the Creed, Sacraments, Old Testament, the Life of Christ, the Church and the Commandments). Our goal is that the weekly at home lessons incorporate all grade levels in one formal learning session for the family (i.e., not require separate

sessions for each child). Sacramental preparation requires additional weekly at home sessions for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

The Director/Coordinators plan to meet once or twice monthly (virtually until safe to gather) with parents for adult faith formation both to assist them in teaching their children and also to help them grow in their own faith. We will also provide support on the weekly teaching topics through emails. When we can gather safely, we plan to have Faith Formation celebratory events to build community among the families, provide hands on learning, and have fun.

The program will start the first week of October. Prior to the first in home session, there will be a virtual parent meeting and you will be provided with the program materials. All Faith Formation meetings will be virtual/online at least through January, but we will be available to meet virtually until our offices are open.

Even though this is a family based program, we still need volunteers. If you are able to help in any way, please contact someone on the Faith Formation Team:

Jackie Butterfield	Director	K-2	JackieB@LWCatholic.org
Arianne Lokuta	Coordinator	3-5	ArianneL@LWCatholic.org
Nicole McDonald	Coordinator	6-8	NicoleM@LWCatholic.org
Kathy Mancini	Admin. Asst.		KathyM@LWCatholic.org
Susan Butterfield	Admin. Asst.		SusanB@LWCatholic.org

God Love,

*Fr. Peter and Fr. Joe*, Co-Pastors

### **Registration Instructions for 2020-2021**

In consideration of the restrictions imposed by the corona virus, registration this year will be conducted either on line or by telephone. There will not be any open face to face registration sessions. Even though the children will not be coming to church for classes, we need an accurate number of families who will be joining the program so we can prepare contact lists and materials for home use.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

Return to the message and open the **“Online Registration and Donation Instructions 2020-2021.pdf”** for instructions on how to register online.

If you have previously created a USER NAME for My Own Church which is where online registration is found, please **do not** attempt to create a new user password. Click on “Lost Password” and enter your information. You will receive an e-mail with your existing username and instructions to create a new password.

## TELEPHONE REGISTRATION

If you do not have access to on line registration, please return to the message and click on **“Click to Sign-up for Phone Registration”** to schedule a telephone appointment via Sign-Up Genius. Susan Butterfield will call you at the time you select and conduct the registration on the phone.

## FEES

**There are no Faith Formation Fees for this year 2020-2021. The Faith Formation Program will be supported by the generosity of the parishioners of the St. Anne-St. Catherine Faith Community.**

If you would like to make a donation, please follow the instructions below:

- Online Donation (credit cards or bank account). Please follow the directions included in the **“Online Registration & Donation Instructions 2020-2021.pdf”**.
- Check. Make checks payable to the selected parish and mail checks to:
  - St. Anne Parish (75 King St, Littleton, MA 01460) OR
  - St. Catherine Parish (2 West Street, Westford, MA 01886)
  - *Be sure to add "Faith Formation Donation" on the memo line.*