



August 2020

Faith Formation this school year is going to look different than years past. We will transition from traditional in-person peer learning to family-oriented Faith Formation, with a focus on the parents as the primary catechists. With the restrictions put in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are not planning to offer any face-to-face opportunities this year.

We know that nothing and no one can replace the influence of the family on the spiritual life of children. We also understand that many parents may feel less than adequate to teach their children religion. Perhaps this is partly because of a misguided presupposition that “religion” is just a school subject. It is, to be sure, but it is also so much more. It is true that what we call “catechesis” is a process of instructing people in the knowledge and practice of the faith. It includes the teaching of specific content - the creed that we profess prayer, moral teaching and the sacraments. Religion, however, is much more than a school subject. It is a way of life.

We will not leave you and your family to have to wade these waters alone, though. We will walk with you every step of the way. Below, you will find how we will do this - together:

Faith Formation instructional opportunities for children K - 8 and their families:

- Instructional materials will be made available to families, either virtually or on paper, before the beginning of each new month
 - These materials include easy to use activities, readings, etc. appropriate for the whole family, but especially for grades K thru 8th grade.
 - Each activity takes about 20 minutes to complete.
 - Each month’s materials will include 4 to 6 activities, from which families will choose as many as they are able to complete.
 - Families who choose to receive their materials via email may require a printer for some activities.
 - Families will also receive a yearly calendar, reminding them of Family Coaching meetings and Celebration Events. A list of prayers appropriate for the various grade levels will be provided.
- Families will be divided into small groups of approximately 6 families, who will be supported by a Family Coach.
 - Family Coaches will meet virtually with parents (only) at the beginning of each month to share materials and ideas for implementing the lessons and to answer any questions you might have.

- Part way through the month, Family Coaches will contact parents to see how things are going and offer suggestions as needed.
- Near the end of most months, we will have virtual “get togethers” to share what we have learned, celebrate our successes and plan for important events in the Church Year.
- Our first set of Coaches Meetings with Families are scheduled for the week of September 14. Print materials will be available for pickup at the church 9/12/20.

This is a new way of doing things for all of us, so we anticipate that some things will work better than others. We ask for your patience and your input as the year progresses, so that we can make this a great experience for all.

To begin the process, we need for each family to complete a simplified registration form. The form is found at this link: <https://forms.gle/vadTEx8e7dUBMGaM7> . Click on the link or visit the Parish Website.

Please complete the form by Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

We look forward to working with you and your family!

Fr. Ross, Crystal, Deb