

August 2020

Greetings St. Joe's families,

We are excited to share with you our tentative plan for St. Joe's Faith Formation this fall. We know that the Covid-19 pandemic has created uncertain times. We, at St. Joseph of the Lakes, are committed to providing you a ministry filled with opportunities to encounter Christ, learn about our Catholic faith, prepare for Catholic Sacraments, explore and care for the people and the world that God created for us, and experience Christ's love in each other.

Based on recommendations from the CDC, MDH, the Minneapolis/St. Paul Archdiocese, and to align with the Centennial School District, we are excited to offer faith formation through a variety of formats to families with children aged preschool through 10th grade beginning in October.

If you haven't already, **please register for St. Joe's Faith Formation now!** Early bird rates end August 31! Registration links are listed below and on the St. Joe's Website at www.mystjoes.me. Please contact the Parish Office with registration link questions at 651-784-3015.

Preschool through Kindergarten Faith Formation:

Preschool through kindergarten faith formation children will meet in small groups at St. Joe's during 10am Sunday Mass. Volunteers are needed to make small groups possible for this age group. Please consider volunteering! Specific details will be provided by the Early Childhood Coordinator, Amy Ward.

Email contact: AmyW@SaintJosephsParish.org

Registration Link for Preschool through Kindergarten Faith Formation:

<https://forms.gle/yWWWXWi2yeo5YEANA>

Elementary School Faith Formation (Grades 1-6) and 2nd Grade Sacrament Preparation:

Elementary School Faith Formation will be a combination of at-home learning activities, pre-recorded video lessons from St. Mary's Press for grades 1-5 and Call to Faith lessons for grade 6, small group Zoom check-ins (mainly on Wednesday evenings), and an opportunity for children and their families to meet at least one Wednesday a month as a large group in the Worship Space. Second grade children who are seeking the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist will prepare with additional Sacramental preparation activities. Volunteers needed! Additional details and a schedule of activities and lessons will be provided by the Director of Elementary School Faith Formation, Kelly Thurmes.

Email contact: KellyT@SaintJosephsParish.org

Registration Link for Elementary School Faith Formation Grades 1-6: <https://forms.gle/y6huHUp3EL81uETb7>

Middle and High School Faith Formation (Grades 7-10) and 9th/10th Sacrament Preparation:

Middle and High School Faith Formation will likely be similar to our Elementary School Faith Formation model. Volunteers Needed! St. Joe's is currently interviewing for a Director of Faith Formation who will also coordinate the Middle and High School Faith Formation ministry. Additional details will be provided to you as soon as possible.

Registration Link for Middle and High School Faith Formation Grades 7-10:

<https://forms.gle/KaKfMTFX5dJbh4Ta6>

Social Justice

Social Justice activities will be incorporated into all levels of our Faith Formation Ministry. A sampling of these activities include guided meditation, art as meditation, Feed My Starving Children packing sessions and speakers, an at home Social Justice kit, hunger awareness activities (replaces annual Trick or Canning this year) to benefit local food shelves and Hope4Youth, and live and recorded video sessions of children at the Believe Center in Guatemala highlighting the children that St. Joe's sponsors. Of course, there will also be some

special projects surrounding our annual Giving Trees beginning in November and thereafter. Additional information with details with how families can pitch in will be sent to by Denise Walsh, Director of Social Justice and Charity. Email Contact: DeniseW@SaintJosephsParish.org.

Family Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation activities will be incorporated into all levels of our Faith Formation Ministry. Highlights include two family activity nights: one during Advent and the other during Lent and our *Faith Formation Ministry Kick-Off event featuring a magician on Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30pm in the Worship Space. Mark your Calendar!* Additional information will be forthcoming from Judy Foster, Director of Adult and Family Faith Formation and Evangelization.

Thank you for your continued support of our Faith Formation and Social Justice ministries! We miss you and look forward to celebrating our faith together.