

Dear St. Joe's Community,

We know the world-wide Covid-19 pandemic has created uncertain times. We look forward to the day when we can gather as God's people, in large and small groups, to worship our loving God and celebrate communal Catholic Sacraments. We do not know what the future will bring or the exact nature of how St. Joe's Faith Formation ministries will be shared with you in the Fall. However, we have faith in God and continue to plan for 2020-2021 knowing that our plans could change based on the ever-changing public health and safety recommendations. We will adapt as needed. As always, new Parish-wide information will be shared with you as it becomes available. However, in the interim, we are excited to share with you some changes and additions to our already vibrant Faith Formation ministry at St. Joes!

Our goal has always been to create a greater sense of faith community for all people at St. Joes, encourage others to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, celebrate the diversity of our parish-wide ministries and experiences, and promote our mission to evangelize world-wide. With that in mind, and with the support of the Faith Formation Commission, Father Mike Anderson, and the Parish Council, we have made a few changes to our Faith Formation Ministry and have implemented a new Faith Formation registration process for 2020-2021.

Our biggest transition for 2020-2021 is combining all school age children (grades 1 - 10) to one night of Faith Formation sessions, Wednesdays. Our tentative plan is for Grades 1-6 to meet Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 6:45pm and Grades 7-10 to meet from 7:15pm to 8:30pm. Joe's Diner and Pizzeria will still be available to the community on Wednesdays as allowed by current recommendations and guidelines. We know that moving to Wednesday only sessions may be a big change for our Monday evening faith formation families and Joe's Diner volunteers and patrons. We hope that everyone will embrace the change and help make Wednesdays a night of great anticipation to gather as one community to learn about and serve our loving God.

#### **NEW FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR 2020-2021! Register Now!**

We know things are uncertain at this time, but we encourage you to register for Faith Formation sessions to help us prepare for the fall. We plan to begin sessions in October 2020. Please use the links below to register for St. Joe's Faith Formation via Google Forms for preschool through 10th grade sessions and adult small faith communities. Please note that you will need to register each child individually using the link listed below based on the child's grade. Thanks in advance for your understanding. By registering each child individually, it will help us with our record keeping. The registration links will also be available at the end of each registration form to register another child in the same or different age category. Additional information regarding tuition and early bird rates and sacramental retreat fees are listed on the St. Joe's Faith Formation Registration Links.

Registration Links via Google Form are also available  
on the St. Joe's website at <http://www.mystjoes.me/Faith-Formation>

#### **2020-2021 FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION LINKS:**

**Pre-K & Kindergarten:** <https://forms.gle/yWWWXWi2yeo5YEANA>

**Elementary School Grades 1-6:** <https://forms.gle/y6huHUp3EL81uEfb7>

**Middle and High School Grades 7-10:** <https://forms.gle/KaKfMTFX5dJbh4Ta6>

Here is an outline highlighting some of St. Joe's NEW Faith Formation offerings in 2020-2021.

For a more comprehensive list of our Faith Formation Ministry opportunities and Social Justice Initiatives, please see the St. Joe's webpage at <http://www.mystjoes.me>.

#### **Preschool and Kindergarten:**

**Adventure Kids:** Adventure Kids is our Pre School Faith Formation ministry offered on Sunday's during the 10am Mass. It's a place for our 3-, 4- & 5-year old's to begin their Faith Formation journey in a safe, creative environment. Through song, crafts, and other interactive activities, we use stories from the Bible and discover how to be a Child of God. NEW

THIS YEAR! We will be using a new curriculum for our Kindergarten kids to help pave the way for the big transition to the 1st grade sessions the following year. Contact Amy for additional information.

**Time Travelers Youth Liturgy of the Word:** Kids in grade 1 and older are invited to their very own Youth Liturgy of the Word during the 10am Mass on Sundays. Kids are called together as a group to go and listen to the Sunday Gospel Reading with a leader and join in a discussion about how God's love and teachings apply to their everyday lives. Contact Amy for additional information.

**Elementary School:**

**Trail Blazer's Fun Fridays:** In addition to our weekly Wednesday sessions, we are excited to offer several "Trail Blazer's Fun Fridays" throughout the year for our Elementary School aged children. Youth in grades 6 and older are invited as volunteers. Trail Blazer's Fun Fridays will be modeled after Vacation Bible Camp with a large group message and lots of fun activities to follow! A pizza dinner will be available. There is no fee for Trail Blazer's Fun Fridays, but pre-registration is required. Contact Kelly for additional information.

**Middle and High School:**

We are currently in the process of hiring staff for the St. Joe's Middle and High School Ministry. Stay tuned for additional offerings to our weekly Wednesday sessions!

**Family Formation:**

**Family Night:** We are excited to offer two Wednesday session Family Nights for families with kids in preschool through grade 6. Families will attend Wednesday session together for a large group presentation, prayer, and a family activity. More to come on those dates and other details. Contact Judy for additional information.

**Adult Formation:**

**Parent Small Groups/Adult Small Faith Communities:** Would you like to get to know other parents in the community and talk about the challenges of life and share our questions of faith? Come join us as we have discussion groups during regular Wednesday Faith Formation sessions or on Sundays following the 10am mass. Childcare will be provided. You may sign-up for Adult Small Faith Communities through the registration links. There is no fee for this ministry. Contact Judy for additional information.

**Social Justice:**

Social Justice initiatives have been and will continue to be intertwined with our on-going faith formation journey. Please contact Denise for additional questions.

If you have questions about any faith formation ministry, please contact us or call the Parish Office at 651-784-3015. We look forward to working with you and your family!

Kind regards,

*The Saint Joseph of the Lakes Faith Formation Team*

-Amy Ward at AmyW@SaintJosephsParish.org

Early Childhood Faith Formation and Time Travelers Youth Liturgy of the Word Coordinator

-Kelly Thurmes at KellyT@SaintJosephsParish.org

Director of Elementary School Faith Formation, 2nd grade Sacraments and Vacation Bible Camp

-Judy Foster at JudyF@SaintJosephsParish.org

Director of Family and Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization

-Denise Walsh at DeniseW@SaintJosephsParish.org

Director of Charity and Social Justice