

# WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER FOR FAITH FORMATION!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH  
FAITH FORMATION DEPARTMENT  
601 N. 8TH ST., MANITOWOC

## Dear Families,

Below you'll find information in regards to faith formation registration for 2020-21 at St. Francis. While non-Roncalli youth are expected to participate in faith formation, Roncalli youth are also encouraged to participate if interested as we seek to cultivate a love of the Lord in our youth and families through prayer, activities, discussion, and more. You can register for faith formation on our parish website under Hearts on FIRE, Edge, or High School Faith Formation. (For any middle school and high school families not interested in registering for faith formation, but wanting to participate in other youth ministry activities, text **@sfa-youth** to **81010** for text updates on social and service activities.)

In the light of our current COVID-19 pandemic, we are making adjustments to best keep our youth and teens, catechists, core team members, families, and staff safe. All of these details can be found on the separate page included in this mailing or on our website. We will additionally go over these changes with youth when they arrive the first week of faith formation. ***If you are a non-Roncalli family planning to do at-home faith formation, you are still required to register your children through the parish, and Michelle and/or Elizabeth will contact you about how to proceed to meet the needs of your family.*** Know that we may need to halt in-person faith formation with minimal notice should a significant COVID-19 outbreak occur or directly impact many of our youth, families, or volunteers. We will do our best to communicate with you quickly and thoroughly. As things change and we receive more/new information, our recommendations may change.

## Family-Integrated Religious Education: Hearts on FIRE (Grades 1-5)

Hearts on FIRE will begin on **Monday, September 21st**, and will take place from **6:15-7:30 PM at the Grand Site**. We have all new programming for our Family Nights, so please check the schedule and get those dates on your calendar! We'll again be working through our Prayer Trackers. I've saved the ones left in the classrooms, so you don't have to start over. We're excited to see everyone again!

## Edge (Grades 6-8)

Edge will begin on **Monday, September 21st** and will take place from **6:30-8:00 PM at the Waldo Site Social Hall**. Youth may be dropped off and picked up at the main entrance across from the Waldo church.

For youth/families that are new to Edge, most Edge nights will follow a 4-part sequence: Gather, Proclaim, Break, and Send. The Gather includes an activity/game/competition/ice breaker that introduces youth to the topic of the evening in a fun way. The Proclaim is the teaching portion of the night. The Break allows youth to discuss the topic of the evening, generally in their small group. The Send wraps up the evening with a time of prayer appropriate to the topic of the evening.

Our primary topics for the year will focus on (1) The Catholic Church and (2) The Sacraments. We will also have a mini series focused on what it means to be human.

## High School Faith Formation (Grades 9-12)

Teens (not attending Roncalli) are required to attend the six high school mini courses **and** then either regularly attend Life Teen on Wednesday nights or Dead Theologians Society on Sunday afternoons. More information is given below. Those who will be sophomores/juniors this year and seeking Confirmation will likely receive Confirmation information in spring.

### >High School Faith Formation Requirement #1: Mini Courses

Prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, students (who are not attending Roncalli High School) will be required to take six foundational courses in Catholic beliefs and practices: **Jesus Christ and the Paschal Mystery, Scripture, Sacraments, Church, Morality, and Theology of the Body**. This is to ensure that all students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation have a solid foundation in their faith and can articulate the truths of their faith. Each mini course will be six hours in length over 2-3 days and mini courses can be taken in any order. All courses will be available each summer and will be cycled through again during the school year. Ideally, students should be taking 2 courses/year from the summer before their freshmen year to the summer before their junior or senior year. Teens can sign-up for mini courses with Elizabeth when the schedules are available. Stay tuned for Fall mini courses. Parents will be notified via email, text reminders parish website, bulletin, and social media when the new mini course schedules are available.

### >High School Faith Formation Requirement #2: Life Teen (Wednesdays)

#### OR Dead Theologians Society (Sundays)

Life Teen will take place on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 PM**. Life Teen follows the same Gather/Proclaim/Break/Send format as Edge. Mini series included during Life Teen this year will include Miracles in the Kingdom of God, the Person of Christ, Theology of the Body, and the Holy Spirit. **Life Teen will start on Wednesday, September 23rd.**

Dead Theologians Society will meet from **4:30-6:00 PM at Waldo** (before the 6:30 PM Mass). Each week we focus on the life of a different saint. **DTS will start on Sunday, September 27th.** Teens are asked to stay for the 6:30PM Mass if they haven't yet attended Mass.

Both DTS and Life Teen will first meet in the Waldo Social Hall for the sake of social distancing. Both Life Teen and Dead Theologians Society will have occasional social and issue nights.

**God Bless,**

**Elizabeth Gruenke**  
**(Grades 6-12)**

**Michelle Bishop**  
**(Grades 1-5)**

**cc:**  
**Fr. Doug**  
**Pastor**

# COVID-19 ADJUSTMENTS:

## For All Programs:

- At any time we may need to move to an at-home or online option due to a significant COVID-19 outbreak, especially if it were to directly impact our youth, families, volunteers, or staff. If this would appear to be short-term, we will have specific at-home materials for youth during these given weeks. If this would appear to be long-term (four or more weeks), we will directly youth and families to the materials that were created for those families who opted for at-home faith formation this year.
- We ask that youth stay home if they've recently:
  - Been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19
  - Had a fever in the last 48 hours
  - Had a new loss of taste or smell
  - Had muscle pain or chills
  - Had a new headache
  - Had nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- If someone in the same household has tested positive for COVID-19 as one of our youth, we ask that the youth does not attend faith formation until after quarantine of the individual who tested positive is complete.
- Temperatures will be taken for all youth upon arrival
- Masks will be worn by all staff/core team members/catechists. More on masks under each section.
- All youth, staff/core team members/catechists will wash or sanitize hands upon arrival. Youth will be directed to a bathroom or sanitizing station.

## Edge:

- Upon arrival, Edge youth will go to their designated small group areas in the social hall after getting their temperature taken and washing hands. Small group leaders will distribute their name tags and snacks and keep track of attendance for their group members.
- While in the social hall, each small group will get a designated table configuration at which to sit during the beginning of the night. We will do our best to keep groups spaced out from one another, using the sides of the social hall which we typically do not use. We will try to keep groups small in size, but can only do so to the extent that we have core team members to lead these groups.
- Masks: Youth will be required to bring a mask and wear it for most of the evening. Youth will be expected to wear masks when in close proximity to peers (within 6 feet). Youth may take off their mask when not in close proximity to their peers, such as during small groups (if the small group space allows for appropriate distancing and at the discretion of the group leader) or while in the church for prayer.
- As small group sizes vary, we will do our best to place small groups in places that allow them to be spaced out, which may involve using spaces outside of the Life Teen House such as the choir loft, church side chapel, etc.
- We will still collect phones, having youth put phones in over-the-door pouches assigned specifically to them.

# COVID-19 ADJUSTMENTS:

## Life Teen and Dead Theologians Society:

- Life Teen and DTS will use the Waldo Social Hall until we can gather in a more compact space such as the Damascus Center or DTS chapter room.
- Teens attending Life Teen will be placed in consistent small groups (ideally of 4-6 teens). We will try to keep these groups composed of teens who are friends outside of Life Teen/in the same social circles. Upon arrival, teens will sit with their small group at designated tables.
- Both Life Teen and DTS will still allow for a brief time of socializing along with a light meal before beginning the evening, with teens sitting at designated tables (either with their consistent small groups in Life Teen or with their friends at DTS). This provides a huge impact on teens' attitudes and participation during the rest of the evening, as well as time to build community casually. Teens will wash or sanitize hands before eating and after eating.
- Life Teen & Masks: Aside from eating, teens should otherwise wear masks when in close proximity to peers. Teens do not need to wear masks when socially distanced from their peers. As our Life Teen groups tend to be smaller than our Edge groups, we should be able to have socially distanced small groups in the Life Teen House.
- DTS & Masks: Teens do not need to wear masks when socially distanced from their peers. Teens should wear masks upon arrival and at the start of the evening if not eating. With DTS in the social hall, we will configure chairs to be at least six feet apart so teens do not need to wear masks for the majority of the evening unless they desire. (Sorry, no pews to start the year!) We will still keep the rest of the atmosphere of DTS the same despite being in the social hall – so still expect lots of candles and iconography!
- We will still collect phones and put them in pouches that hang over the door as teens arrive. Teens will have a pouch assigned to them.

## Hearts on FIRE:

- Before you enter the building, please wear a mask or other suitable face cover, and be sure that your child has one as well. If you need a mask, we will have plenty of disposable ones for you to use for the evening. Keep your mask on until you reach your classrooms.
- When you enter the building, you and your child will be temperature-checked inside the breezeway at the Grand site. We will have a hand sanitizing station located right in the entryway, and everyone will be asked to clean their hands before moving up to the classrooms.
- Masks: Once in the classroom, your child's teacher may allow him/her to take a break from his/her mask if it is safe to do so. We will have desks as far apart as our space allows, and if all the kiddos are facing the same direction, it should be ok for them to remove their face masks during instruction. Please let them know that there will be times when they need to put their face masks on again, but they will most likely be quite used to this from school by the time they come to us on Monday nights!
- Children will be asked to wear masks if they are moving about in the building (trips to the restroom, going to church, going to the Atrium, etc.).
- There will be hand sanitizing stations in each classroom, and we will allow for staggered trips to the restroom to clean hands.
- Family Nights will look a little different this year, as we won't all be able to gather in the Social Hall at one time. Stay tuned for further details about this!