



Saint Andrew

Anchored in Faith  Catholic Church and School

Faith Formation Newsletter — August 2018

Dear Saint Andrew Parishioners,

Since last winter, people have been asking what the Faith Formation program will be like this year. Judging from the registration numbers so far, some of you may be holding out for more information before signing up. Last year was rocky for many of you; this year will be better!

My goal—my reason for being here at Saint Andrew and, increasingly, my reason for getting up in the morning—is to help make disciples and save souls. To that end, this year we are simplifying the Faith Formation requirements; empowering families to grow in faith together; and emphasizing prayer, the sacraments, and a personal relationship with God and His Church.

- **Volunteers:** Your top priority this year is to be a disciple. Your own relationship with Jesus is job one, followed by prayer for and with your students, followed by what happens in class every other Wednesday.
- **Parents:** The same applies to you—the example you set is the single most important factor in whether your children remain Catholic. Discipleship is hard, but the order is simple: God, spouse, children, everything else.

I hope that sounds good to you. The truth is, we can't do this without you. We need your prayers. We need your help. We need you to set goals for your family to move closer to Christ. We need you at Mass each and every Sunday and Holy Day and at Confession whenever you need it.

We need you. Thank God you are here!

Jim Thorp

Director of Evangelization and Catechesis

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2018-19 Faith Formation Program Overview

Similar to last year's program, Faith Formation classes will meet onsite most Wednesday evenings from mid-September through mid-May. Grades 1-8 and Grades 9-10 will meet on alternating Wednesdays. Grade 11 will have its own schedule both before and after Confirmation, which is Sunday, December 2, at 4:00 PM. After Confirmation, 11th-grade small groups will continue to meet approximately once a month to discuss relevant topics of their choice.

We will have Faith Formation family gatherings at the church roughly once a month (including Holy Day Masses, a Family Fun Day and Stations of the Cross), as well as simplified at-home activities for those weeks

when your student does not have class. The at-home activities are still in the works, but will be emphasize simplicity and participation of the whole family.

Grades 1-5 Program

Both Saint Andrew Catholic School and Faith Formation are using the *We Believe* program from Sadlier supplemented by *Faith & Life* from Ignatius Press. Our focus this year will be on smaller class sizes, improved volunteer support and more interactive learning—if we have enough volunteers, we may even move from a classroom format to stations to help kids stay engaged and energized. Students will receive notebooks and

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2018-19 Faith Formation Program Overview

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packets in class, rather than workbooks, this year.

Grade 6 Program

Our focus for 6th grade will again be sacred scripture: learning the overall story of salvation, the biblical roots of Catholic teachings and practices, and how to navigate the Bible. Each child will receive a Bible, the book *Bible Basics for Catholics* and a Catholic Verse Finder, as well as a notebook for journaling.

Grade 7-8 Program

Students in 7th and 8th grades will learn about how Catholic teachings apply to their lives as teens and adults using the *YouCat* (Youth Catechism) and *YouCat Study Guide* from Ignatius Press. Each student will receive a copy of both books—for 7th-graders, these will be their materials for next year, as well.

Grade 9 Program

This year's 9th-graders will begin a two-year journey through the *Chosen* Confirmation Program from Ascension Press. This video-based, small-group program features great Catholic speakers including Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jason Evert, Jackie Francois Angel and more. Each student will receive a notebook for journaling, as well as other handouts as needed. These will be their materials for next year, as well.

Grade 10 Program

This year's 10th-graders will dig deeper into some of the key topics introduced in the *Chosen* home lessons last year, using YDisciple and other video-based, small-group programs available through FORMED.org. Each student will receive a notebook for journaling, as well as other handouts as needed.

Grade 11 Program

The program for 11th-graders leading up to their Confirmation on December 2 will focus specifically on the Holy Spirit, the Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit, the sacrament of Confirmation, and living out the faith after Confirmation. We will use YDisciple and other video-based, small-group programs available through FORMED.org. Each student will receive a notebook for journaling, as well as other handouts as needed. This year, the newly confirmed teens will be encouraged to continue meeting with their small groups once a month to grow in discipleship after Confirmation.

FAITH FORMATION REMINDERS

- Catechist and leader training begins in late August, and we still need more volunteers! If you feel called to share your faith with our children and teens, contact Jim Thorp right away!
- All volunteers will need to complete updated Safe Environment requirements for the year—contact Lori in the Parish Office for details.
- The parent and student meeting for Confirmation is Saturday, September 8, 6:00 to 7:00 PM.
- The parent meeting for First Reconciliation and First Communion is Saturday, September 22, 6:00 to 7:00 PM.
- The 11th-grade Confirmation NET Retreat is on Wednesday, September 19, 6:00 to 10:00 PM at the church.
- The first class for grades 1-8 is also Wednesday, September 19, 6:30 to 7:45 PM.
- Our Opening Mass and Kickoff is Wednesday, September 26, 6:30 to 7:45 PM.
- The first class for grades 9-11 is Wednesday, October 3, 6:30 to 7:45 PM.
- A complete schedule of all Faith Formation activities, including catechist training, sacrament meetings, and family Masses and activities, is available to print by clicking the Faith Formation tab on the parish website, www.saint-andrew.net.
- You can also access the Faith Formation Google Calendar by selecting Faith Formation Calendar from the dropdown menu under the Faith Formation tab on the parish website.
- Pray for our students, families and volunteers, that we may all be drawn closer to Jesus this year!

For more information on Faith Formation at Saint Andrew, contact Jim Thorp or Lori Iannuzzelli at 763-441-1483.