



Faith Formation Updates

January/February 2019

Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ



Dear St. John's Family,

Welcome back to Faith Formation! Our time of preparation during Advent has revitalized our hearts as we welcome Jesus and the blessings of a New Year. During this time of new beginnings, we encourage your family to reach out and share the Joy that Christ brings to our lives. We remain prayerful, that together we can live out the mission of Christ on earth through the ways we interact with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings, Kelly Howard, Faith Formation Director

Upcoming Events for K-8

Jan. 16-K-8 Class, 2nd Grade First Reconciliation Service during class

Jan. 23-K-8 Class **6th and 7th grade parent night**

Jan. 30-K-8 Class

Feb. 3-10th Grade Confirmation 1:00

Feb. 6- K-8 Class

Feb. 13-K-8 Class

Feb. 20-Family Faith Night, Reconciliation for Families beginning at 6:00

Feb. 27-K-8 Class

Mar. 6-**NO CLASS**, Ash Wednesday Mass at 6:00 and Soup Supper

Mar. 13-K-8 Class

Mar. 20-**NO CLASS**, Spring Break

Mar. 27-K-8 Class

Mar. 31-2nd Grade Parent/Child First Eucharist Retreat 10:30-12



Family Faith Night

On Wednesday December 19th, families from St. John's gathered in the church to celebrate the coming of Christ. High School Confirmation students assisted younger disciples as they presented the nativity story. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and all the key players were there. All who came to watch were able to join along too through music with caroling between the scenes. *O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night, and Joy to the World* were a few of the songs lead by the band and enjoyed by all. **Faith and Giving Go Together!** Following the presentation families put together cookie plates for our Christmas Giving Tree families. Families donated 48 dozen cookies which were plated for the 10 families and 15 individuals on the Giving Tree. Additional cookies were bagged and delivered to Bethel Mission in Des Moines, The Crisis Intervention Center, and the Dallas County Sheriff, Thank you to everyone that shared in this fun parish event.

Prayer Buddies "cover" parishioners with blessings. Before Christmas, 2nd and 5th grade Prayer Buddies worked together to create tie blankets for individuals of the parish experiencing different challenges. The children also made cards, which were delivered with the blankets before Christmas. The gift, along with the messages of encouragement and hope, showed each person our love and



support as a church community...keeping them "covered with blessings" from their St. John's family.



THANK YOU!
On Wednesday
January 9th
Wednesday night
catechists and
High School
Youth Ministers
joined together for Prayer and Fellowship at the Appreciation Dinner.

St. John's Catholic Church wishes to express its' sincere gratitude to the faithful servants who help with our Wednesday Night Faith Formation Program and Youth Ministry. We are blessed as a faith community to have over 40 individuals willing to share their time and faith with our young and growing disciples. Thank you for answering God's call to offer your gifts and serve our church. Please keep our friend and fellow catechist, Leslie Mineart, and her family in your prayers as she is experiencing health challenges.

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/lesliemineart2/journal>



RCIA—Forming Adults in the Faith

We are grateful for the time and dedication to the RCIA process, shared by the RCIA team: Ed and Brenda Anderson, Jon and Marcia McIlrath, Karen Moon and Marita Wile. The Team walks the journey of faith with adults who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith and come together on a weekly basis to learn about Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Through this process they will discover where God is presenting their lives and become fully initiated in to the church.

WATCH YOUR STEP!

Please help your children use extra caution in our wintery parking lot and on sidewalks. We do our best to keep these areas safe and clear. Thank you to Knight Watch for your extra help too!



New Date: Saturday January 26th



A SPECIAL TREAT FOR MOM!

Saturday January 26th we welcome Julie Nelson, radio host of *Catholic Women Now*, to St. John's for an inspirational presentation: **Daughter of the King**. This morning event, from 9:00 to 10:30, will include breakfast and fellowship followed by Julie's Presentation. We encourage you to join the women of St. John's and bring a friend.

Save the Date: February 20th



The next **Family Faith Night** will be a special Reconciliation opportunity for families. Father Remi and four additional priests will be available from 6:00-7:30 to hear confessions. Children will not have class so that everyone in your family may come and receive grace through this sacrament of healing.



Our 10th grade class will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on Sunday February 3rd. Bishop Pates will be here to celebrate the Mass at 1:00pm. All are invited to attend and help celebrate this milestone on their journey of faith.

Bringing Young Children to Mass.

We welcome all family members to St. John's and have several ways to support those who bring our youngest disciples.



1. Borrow a Mass Bag to use quietly in the church. Mass Bags are on the back counter in the church entry.
2. A cry room is located in the back of the church if you are concerned about your child's activity level.
3. Let the Ushers know your family would like to volunteer to carry up the gifts during the offertory. Kids love to be a part of the Thanksgiving celebration.
4. Join us for coffee and donuts following Sunday Mass. It is a great way to make new friends.
5. Consider joining another family and sign up to host the weekly gathering.