

St. Mary and St. John the Baptist Faith Formation Office
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Dear Parent/Guardians,

June, 2018

Welcome to a new year of Faith Formation! We look forward to working with you as we learn more about Jesus our Savior and celebrate our Catholic faith together. Young people receive their spirituality from you at home, from our church community, and directly as a gift from God. Your influence on your child's faith development is more significant than any other person or experience your child will ever have.

God showed His love for us, by requiring that we take time out of our busy lives, once a week, to give honor and worship, so we can be spiritually healthy. God has inspired the church to require attendance at Mass every weekend. This gives us the opportunity to be spiritually fed when we listen to God's Words as the Scriptures are proclaimed, and when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Jesus and His Church require that we receive God's graces by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year. We may not receive Holy Communion unless serious sin has been forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Faith Formation Catechists and curriculum present and reinforce the teachings of our Roman Catholic Faith. Because parents are the most important teachers of our faith for their children, it sends a mixed message if our catechists and our Church emphasize how important it is to attend Holy Mass on weekends and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, and parents put little importance on the practices of our Catholic faith. God and His Church always invites us to come back to receive the Sacraments, both for ourselves and as an example for our children and to continue to learn more about Him and His Church. Our children "hear" our actions, how we live, more than they "hear" our words.

The Faith Formation program provides a safe place for our young people to share spiritual ideas, a place where they can pray together and learn more about God, the Bible and the teachings of our Catholic Church. Worship experiences will also be part of the formation process as well.

The Faith Formation staff and catechists here work in partnership with you, as you do all you can to help your child become a believing, loving Catholic Christian. The catechists are volunteering their time and talent, and we owe them an enormous amount of support and gratitude.

May God bless you with Grace to lead your family to Christ.

Joanne Vanness

Faith Formation Coordinator