



2020-2021 6th – 8th Grade Faith Formation

Dear Parishioners,

Much in our society seems to be changing and adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic as it continues to unfold and drag on. While we at the Collaborative are changing up our approach to pre-K-5th grade faith formation with the implementation of “Project Nazareth” (see our website for more), we intend to keep 6th-8th Grade Faith Formation meeting weekly with a catechist. However, in the age of COVID-19, we will need to make some changes as to how these sessions will look.

We intend to have a hybrid, in person and online, meeting schedule. While it is, to an extent, “easier” for us to offer our entire year online, we are also aware of the real problem of “Zoom Fatigue” in your sons and daughters and want to offer breaks from it as much as possible. Faith formation via Zoom all year long is simply not an acceptable option. If you are not comfortable with ANY in-person gatherings for your son/daughter, when we have an in person gathering, we will provide an alternative to be completed at home together. Know that we will be taking every precaution possible to keep children and catechists safe.

In an effort to ease your way into what will likely be a unique school year, we will not start our Faith Formation program until October, giving you time to get settled into a routine with school work first . Please look closely at the schedule below for more detail on how this program will play out.

Although the 6th through 8th grade will be meeting regularly as a group, it is important that we all see these sessions as merely a supplement to the faith life and formation in the home. What we talk about and teach in these sessions makes little sense if it is not given concrete expression in the daily lives of the children and youth who attend. For this reason, we will be doing our best to stay connected to you as parents, supporting and encouraging you in your efforts to pray with your kids and bring the faith to expression throughout your week in creative ways, whether this is something you do regularly already or not. Also, we encourage you to accompany your son or daughter on the Zoom calls and support them in their at-home learning.

After reading through any of the content below, please let me know if questions or concerns linger. Know of my prayer for you and your families during this challenging time.

In Christ,

Aaron Giard

Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

6th-8th Grade Session Structure – REVISED 8/21/2020

There are some slight revisions in the below, as an error was caught. Please review this version for your records. Thank you for your patience.

This year we intend to have a hybrid online/in-person faith formation program for 6th-8th grade faith formation. **Due to better ventilation and space for social distancing, we will be using the Church of the Nativity Hall in Merrimac for all in-person gatherings, unless otherwise noted. Online gatherings will happen on Zoom. Invitation links will be provided when we get closer.**

Please keep in mind that, due to COVID-19, certain details might be subject to change as we get closer to and move through the year.

In Person Session Time/Location

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Church of the Nativity Hall (Merrimac), unless otherwise noted

Online Sessions

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM via Zoom. Link invite will be provided.

6th-8th Grade Schedule

October 4th – IN PERSON @ Immaculate Conception Church

October 11th – Meet at Maudslay State Park in Newburyport

October 18th – IN PERSON

October 25th – IN PERSON

November 1st – Online/Zoom

November 8th – IN-PERSON

November 15th – Online/Zoom

November 22nd – IN-PERSON

No Faith Formation November 29th (Thanksgiving Weekend)

December 6th – Online/Zoom

December 13th – IN-PERSON

December 20th – IN-PERSON

No Faith Formation December 27th (Holiday Vacation Week)

January 3rd – Online/Zoom

January 10th – Online/Zoom

January 17th – IN-PERSON

January 24th – Online/Zoom

January 31st – Online/Zoom

February 7th – IN-PERSON

No Faith Formation February 14th (Winter Vacation Week)

February 21st – Online/Zoom

February 28th – Online/Zoom

March 7th – IN-PERSON

March 14th – Online/Zoom

March 21st – Online/Zoom

March 28th – IN-PERSON

No Faith Formation April 4th (Easter Sunday)

April 11th – Online/Zoom

No Faith Formation April 18th (Spring Vacation Week)

April 25th – Online/Zoom

May 2nd – IN-PERSON (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM)

May 9th – IN-PERSON

May 16th – IN-PERSON

Pentecost and End of Year Family Gathering May 23rd TBD
