



“Come all you
who are thirsty,
come to the waters...”

Holy Redeemer
Immaculate Conception
Collaborative

serving Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport & West Newbury

2019-2020 Holy Redeemer Parish K-8 Faith Formation

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for the warm greetings from all I have met in my first few weeks at Holy Redeemer Immaculate Conception Collaborative. I sense the Holy Spirit moving in this community in powerful ways. It is my hope, with your help and prayers, to harness and guide the energy, creativity and desire for God already present.

As we continue to implement our Pastoral Plan and continually seek creative, meaningful and Spirit-led ways to engage our children, and, indeed, every parishioner, with the faith, there will be a few changes this year to our faith formation offerings. We appreciate your patience and graciousness as change continues to blow through our doors. It is my prayer that, through all the change, we keep our eyes on Jesus, “who is the same yesterday, and today and forever.” Heb. 13:8

Our hope with K-8 Faith Formation is to spark an interest in and knowledge of the richness and beauty of the Mass, what our faith tells us is “the Source and Summit” of the Christian life. Many of us may have gone our whole lives, coming every Sunday to Mass, or sporadically, not understanding the significance behind certain words and postures. We hope to change this, starting with our youth and working all the way to us adults.

We also hope to make this a truly communal, lifelong experience. No matter how involved or not involved we have been in church, we are always aware as Catholics of *the need to grow* into the fullness of Christ and *the need to do this together* in community. As Catholics, we also believe that parents and family are the primary educators in the life of faith of our children. In truth, many of us, however, have not felt up to the task. Perhaps we were not given this model from our parents growing up. Perhaps we are uncomfortable discussing the faith with our kids, for whatever reason and/or don’t know where we stand in our own faith journey.

With all of this in mind, we are asking that parents of children in grades 5-8 come to all three parts of our Sunday morning formation sessions (see below), with their own, meaningful fellowship and discussion taking part while the children are receiving catechesis. Parents of children in grades K-4 are asked to attend post-Mass fellowship. Come as you are with your knowledge, your questions, discomfort and/or your trust in Jesus and His Church. Come as you are, no sanctity required. Come, let us journey together and not do this alone.

On a practical note, if you have concerns and conflicts with the schedule, do not hesitate to contact me. It is my hope that this not be a burden on families, so let’s work together as we forge ahead.

In Christ,

Aaron Giard

Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

GRADE K-4 FAITH FORMATION STRUCTURE*

11 Catechesis Sessions at Nativity Church, broken into two parts - Select Sundays (mostly twice a month)

- 1. 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM – Mass at Nativity Church**
 - Families are asked to attend Mass with their children.
 - **If you have a child in the 5-8th grade group as well as one in the K-4th grade, there is no need to attend this Mass, all your children are invited to the 10:15 AM Mass.**
- 2. 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM - Child catechesis / Parent fellowship and discussion**
 - Children head to the church hall for an hour of catechesis using books and videos, much of which has been used in years past.
 - Parents head to fellowship, refreshments and formation with the Director of LFF.
 - There will be a focus on PRAYER as a theme this year.

8 Take-Home Catechesis Assignments, since there will be half of the usual in-person class time.

- Children and youth, with the help of parents, will receive lessons and submit their responses via text message and e-mail using Flocknote, a simple, easy to use and powerful software.
- The lessons will be submitted on weekends when the formation sessions are not taking place.
- The lessons will be available to work on throughout the week but will be submitted by Sunday evenings (SEE SCHEDULE BELOW).
- These lessons will be custom made, from textbook, and/or center on a short video.

GRADES 5-8 MASS-CENTERED FORMATION STRUCTURE*

11 Sessions at St. Ann Church, broken into three parts - Select Sundays (mostly twice a month)

- 1. 9:45 AM – 10:10 AM: Mass-prep.**
 - Youth and parents gather in reserved pews with catechists. Together, with the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation, we will go through the Liturgy of the Mass throughout the year, answering questions about the Mass, the church and the faith.
- 2. 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM Mass at St. Ann Church**
 - Children are encouraged to sit with their family but will be able to sit with their catechist if their family cannot make it.
- 3. 11:20 AM – 12:20 AM: Children and Youth Catechesis/Parent Fellowship**
 - Children and youth head to the church hall for an hour of catechesis using books and videos, much of which has been used in years past.
 - Parents head to the church hall dining room for an hour of fellowship, refreshments, and formation with the Director of LFF.

8 Take-Home Catechesis Assignments, since there will be half of the usual in-person class time.

- Children and youth, with the help of parents, will receive lessons and submit their responses via text message and e-mail using Flocknote, a simple, easy to use and powerful software.
- The lessons will be submitted on weekends where the formation sessions are not taking place.
- The lessons will be available to work on throughout the week but will be submitted by Sunday evenings.
- These lessons might be custom made, from textbook, and/or center on a short video.

Holy Redeemer Parish 2019-2020 SCHEDULE

Sept. 15th: **Faith Formation Day 1**

Sept. 22nd: NO Faith Formation

Sept 29th: **Faith Formation Day 2**

Oct 6th : NO Faith Formation (**TAKE-HOME LESSON 1 – DUE BY END OF DAY**)

Oct 13th: **HOLIDAY WEEKEND / NO FAITH FORMATION**

Oct. 20th: **Faith Formation Day 3**

Saturday, Oct. 26th: Holy Redeemer Confirmation Liturgy @ 4:00 PM Mass

Oct. 27th: NO Faith Formation (**TAKE-HOME LESSON 2 – DUE BY END OF DAY**)

Nov. 3rd : **Faith Formation Day 4**

Nov. 10th : **VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY / NO FAITH FORMATION**

Nov. 17th : NO Faith Formation (**TAKE-HOME LESSON 3 – DUE BY END OF DAY**)

Nov. 24th : **Faith Formation Day 5**

Dec. 1st : **THANKSGIVING WEEKEND / NO FAITH FORMATION**

Dec. 8th : NO Faith Formation (**TAKE-HOME LESSON 4 – DUE BY END OF DAY**)

Dec. 15th : **Faith Formation Day 6**

Dec. 22nd – Jan.4th: **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS VACATION / NO FAITH FORMATION**

Jan. 5th: NO Faith Formation (**TAKE-HOME LESSON 5 – DUE BY END OF DAY**)

Jan. 12th: **Faith Formation Day 7**

Jan. 19th: **MLK Jr. HOLIDAY / NO FAITH FORMATION**

Jan. 26th: NO Faith Formation (**TAKE-HOME LESSON 6 – DUE BY END OF DAY**)

Feb. 2nd: **Faith Formation Day 8**

Feb. 9th : NO Faith Formation (**TAKE-HOME LESSON 7 – DUE BY END OF DAY**)

Feb. 16th / 18th: **WINTER BREAK / NO FAITH FORMATION**

Feb. 23rd: **Faith Formation Day 9**

Mar. 1st: NO Faith Formation (**TAKE-HOME LESSON 8 – DUE BY END OF DAY**)

Mar. 8th: **Faith Formation Day 10**

Mar. 15th: NO Faith Formation

Mar. 22nd: **Faith Formation Day 11 (Last Session)**

Mar. 29th: NO Faith Formation

IMPORTANT NOTE: IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO ONE OF THE SESSIONS AT HOLY REDEEMER PARISH, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE UP THE SESSION AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, WHICH MOST LIKELY WILL BE HELD THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND, DEPENDING ON HOLIDAYS (PLEASE SEE THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE, ON THE WEBSITE, FOR DETAILS).