



## Faith Formation and Confirmation

We are so happy to be welcoming our families back for the 2020-21 year of Faith Formation – despite the challenges! We want you to know that we are here for you and will continue to support your children in their faith regardless of the teaching mode and circumstances.

### Onground/Online Lessons

All of our materials were chosen carefully this year to make transitions from on-ground to online easy and all class modes productive and enjoyable.

Parents will be notified about the mode prior to all classes. October classes will be on-ground unless you hear otherwise. Please refer to your grade-level schedule or our website: <https://www.saintjohnboscobranford.org/faithformation>

Online lessons will be self-paced with complete lessons and video content accessed online. Catechists will correspond with your child to check for understanding. Conference video calls will be used if extended online presence is expected.

### Help and Resources

Parents are the first educators of their children, and today quite literally truer than ever. As you reflect on on-ground classes or help support your child through the online lessons, please know we are here as much for you as for them.

Regina Martindale	K-grade 4	<a href="mailto:faithformation@saintjohnboscobranford.org">faithformation@saintjohnboscobranford.org</a>	203-488-2998
Steve Schambach	grades 5-8	<a href="mailto:faithformation@saintjohnboscobranford.org">faithformation@saintjohnboscobranford.org</a>	203-488-2998
Jenny Smith	grades 9-10	<a href="mailto:confirmation@saintjohnboscobranford.org">confirmation@saintjohnboscobranford.org</a>	203-779-9004 (cell)
Kim Hawley	Youth Minister	<a href="mailto:youth@saintjohnboscobranford.org">youth@saintjohnboscobranford.org</a>	203-488-1607 ex.20

### Covid 19 Guidelines

- All adults and students must wear masks at all time while on the property and in class.
- Teaching areas are appropriately ventilated and sanitizes before/after all classes
- If you student feels at all ill, please stay home, email the coordinator, and complete the online lesson.
- All participants will sign in and out for proper contact tracing records. Please notify a coordinator immediately of a positive test result or symptoms for any of our students or family members.
- Please follow grade-specific directions for drop-offs and pick-ups.

### Mass Attendance: See times in bulletin (<https://www.saintjohnboscobranford.org/publications>)

Mass attendance is expected of all children enrolled in faith formation and Confirmation. It is the core of our Catholic religion and the very reason for our programs. Until the end of November (and will very well be extended) Mass is live-streamed on Saint John Bosco Facebook page at 9:30am Sundays. Lessons and discussion will be based on the weekly readings. Teens in grades 8-10 will be asked to briefly reflect on the priests' homilies in their Confirmation journals.

### Parish Website: <https://www.saintjohnboscobranford.org/youth>

Our Youth and Family pages have been updated with several new opportunities for enrichment, community, and growth. On the Service/Ministry Opportunity page, many options are available for those at home/online. Check regularly!

### September: Family Focus

Since our classes our starting later this year in response to the shifting environment, we are committing September to the family. What a fitting way to start the program with the reminder to ourselves and our kids that it all really starts at home – what we do, what we learn from and teach to those immediately around us, and how we support each other. Please make the time to complete the activity together on the backside. We will share this experience at our first classes. God Bless!

## Family Focus for 2020-21

Set aside a special time for your family to re-center and prayerfully consider your priorities, your values, and your goals for this coming year. Discuss and record answers to the following:

1. What are some stressors we are anticipating this year? How can we lean on our faith to help guide us through?
  
2. What are three character traits we value? How does our family demonstrate one/some of those values? What are some ways we help each other live these values out in our daily lives better? Be specific.
  
3. List in order from 1-5, our family's priorities. (i.e. what are the things we spend the most time/energy doing?).  
**Most**  
1)  
2)  
3)  
4)  
5)  
**Least**
  
4. Where is Mass, God, prayer, or our faith in that list? Are we OK with that, or do we want to find a way to add it or move it up in the list of priorities? How can we do that – specifically?
  
5. Where is family time or service to others in that list? Are we OK with that, or do we want to find a way to add it or move it up in the list of priorities? How can we do that – specifically?
  
6. Where is service to others in that list? Are we OK with that, or do we want to find a way to add it or move it up in the list of priorities? How can we do that – specifically?
  
7. Reflecting on #3 -#6, do we want to try to reprioritize some? Reorder your list to reflect these new goals.  
1)  
2)  
3)  
4)  
5)
  
8. Create a prayer for your family that you can post on your refrigerator or keep in the center of the kitchen table or tack to the bathroom door. Your prayer should be addressed to the specific needs, hopes, and gratitude of your unique family.

**CHALLENGE: Say grace each time you gather around the table to eat and end/start each day with a family prayer.**