August 2019

Dear Holy Family and St. Lawrence Youth and Families!

We are busy getting ready to launch a completely NEW format for our Faith Formation program! We hope you will share in our excitement as we are working hard to better serve the youth and their families! After a summer filled with meetings and feedback, we are ready to present a NEW Faith Formation style for our parish cluster! This program is innovative, it embraces families, and it is sure to be full of fruitful lessons on our beautiful faith. This year our parishes are focusing on the “Year of Community”- so this year our Faith Formation theme will be “Building Community with the King of our Hearts”.

Many parents came to us and shared their vision for Faith Formation- repeatedly, the families with younger students asked us to consider making room for their family on Wednesdays- and it makes sense- no longer will families be inclined to choose class over Mass or Mass over class. The best all around solution was to move the entire program to Wednesday evenings. In doing so, we are praying that we can serve your family in a more family-friendly, faith filled way! Preschool-4th grade and 5th-12th will be the 2 groups that will meet on Wednesdays; BUT- we will be moving the groups around to accommodate the different ages and the volume of families in our program. We will be doing more service projects, community building time, and other activities to help families praise our Lord together. We will continue to use the small group model with the older youth, and the younger children’s parents will be strongly encouraged to stay with their children and take part in Mass, the meal, and the teaching time which will be led by Fr. Ryan.

Here is what this looks like: (You will all get color coded calendars to help decipher the plan!)

Preschool-4th Graders:

2 Wednesdays/Month @ St. Lawrence:

5:30-6pm: MASS

6-6:30pm: MEAL

6:30-7pm: CATECHESIS/TEACHING TIME

2 Wednesdays/Month:

6-7pm on Service Nights & 5:30-7pm Family Time Nights

+++The youth and their families will take part in different service opportunities- either in the community or at Holy Family. The Works of Mercy will be emphasized and putting these Works in to practice throughout the year will be the focus of the service nights.

(5) Family Faith Nights will take place in each other’s homes- each family can have a turn opening their homes to a few other families for a potluck dinner and Gospel reflection/activity. All information to facilitate the evening will be provided.

5th-12th Graders: Wednesdays 6-8:00pm- On opposite weeks of the younger kids- meal, class, small groups, and Adoration will be our format for our parish nights.

Service projects will take part at Holy Family and in various locations in the community, and Community time- will look different each time- Stations of the Cross on the Lakewalk, small group nights, Bonfires/s’mores, game nights, Praise & Worship nights, are just a few ideas for this community time with the older youth and their Catechists and Core Team.

The format for Sacramental Preparation will remain the same with Confirmation teens (11/12th grades) meeting monthly on Sundays and First Communion youth meeting on several Tuesdays during the 2nd semester. Confirmation teens will earn the majority of their “Mission Hours” over the course of the Faith Formation year as we will incorporate service projects in to the programming.

This year, FLOCKNOTE will be our main source of communication- FLOCKNOTE is a group texting/emailing program that allows us to send out mass messages regarding schedule updates and program adjustments. Please plan on receiving 1-2 messages/week until the new format is completely hiccup free!

I look forward to explaining the format in more detail and sharing our enthusiasm about the new look! Wednesday, September 18th at 5:30pm, we will begin with Mass, a BBQ beginning at 6:15, and ending with a discussion about the year we have planned out! The evening will conclude by 8p.m. This is a very important evening-please plan on joining us. May you have a great rest of the summer- and a wonderful start to the new school year! All questions will be answered at the meeting on September 18!

My prayers are with the young people of our community!

Peace in Jesus,

Karen Ball, Director of Youth and Family Faith Formation

St. Lawrence/Holy Family Parishes

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