

Faith Formation Update September 25, 2020

We hope this finds our Faith Formation families safe and well as we try to return to something resembling normal during a global pandemic.

The diocese has provided us with detailed guidelines so that we can safely return to in-person classes with reduced numbers to keep our families healthy. You will see changes in the frequency of our classes, as well as the structuring of our grades. We will also be providing our families with materials for at home learning on weeks that your children are not in class at our parish.

- Each class will attend in-person once a month. A schedule through the end of the calendar year is attached.
- The following safety protocols will be implemented per health department and diocesan standards:
 - Only students, teachers and coordinators will be permitted in the parish school building. Drop off and pick up will take place via the back door leading to the school. There will be a table set up with hand sanitizer, masks (should a child forget one), wellness screening and thermometer for no-touch temperatures.
 - All children, teachers and coordinators will wear masks and be social distanced at all times.
 - No food or drink will be served this year.
- The First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes will be transitioning to a two-year program to allow more time to study and prepare to receive the sacraments. This is expected to be implemented throughout the diocese in the future, however because of the quarantine during the time our children would have normally received First Communion in May of this year we thought it made the most sense to begin immediately. Now we will be able to give the Spring of 2020 class (now third grade) an opportunity to finish their study and receive the sacrament with their peers in the spring of 2021. The new class, which will combine first and second grades, will receive the sacrament in the spring of 2022.
- The next Confirmation class (grades 8-9) will be attending class monthly, however there will be an additional day each month for our youth group (grades 8-12) to work on service projects and other activities to help them grow in their faith. Since this is still in the planning stages, the days and time for this will be announced later. *Our obligation to Faith Formation does not end at Confirmation, rather we begin the journey of spreading the Gospel to others. What better place to begin than mentoring and inspiring a new class filled with friends and siblings who are preparing to make the same commitment! We hope that our high school students who have already been confirmed will attend regularly as part of their continued faith journey.*
- The diocese has asked each family to sign a Code of Conduct and Liability Waiver. Copies of both are attached and should be completed and returned on the first day of class.
- Also attached is the Family Registration form which should be completed and returned on the first day of class. It is imperative that this form be turned in with updated contact information should contact tracing become necessary at some point during the year.

I hope that I have not overwhelmed you with so much new information. I have missed seeing all of your children on Sundays during snack time and hearing their sweet voices as they socialize with their friends. I long for the day that we can return to that, however until that time I look forward to seeing them back in class as we forge ahead with our "new normal". Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Keiling at (304) 207-8669.

Yours in Faith,
Lisa Keiling