

Dear Faith Formation families,

First, we would like to tell you how **grateful** we are **for your patience and perseverance** throughout the past year. It was a difficult year for many people, and having to do faith formation from a distance was one more challenge for everyone. We are very much looking forward to **in-person classes next year!**

Second, we would like to **welcome Rita Meyer** to the parish staff! Amy Hoeschen and Chrystal Sand (who had been helping us with faith formation) have transitioned to different jobs in the Tri-Parish cluster, so Rita will now be working part-time as the **Faith Formation Office Coordinator** for our One in Faith:4 cluster of parishes (St. Andrew's, St. John's, St. Michael's, and St. Mary's). Rita will be managing registration, communications with faith formation families, logistics for our sacramental programs, and communications with the Diocesan faith formation offices. Rita can be reached at faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com. We are blessed to have her with us!

Some **basic information** about what we hope to do with the **faith formation program in 2021-2022:**

In terms of classes, the biggest change we hope to make next year, for all grades: LOTS more hands-on activities!

Grades 1, 3-5:

*textbook: Alive in Christ or Pflaum Gospel weeklies

*Once-a-month gatherings on Wednesday nights (youth + parents at all classes)

Begin in church with prayer for all grades (5-15 minutes)

Guest speaker introduces the theme for the night (10 minutes)

Break out into groups, according to grade level; each grade will have age-appropriate activity for the theme that evening, led by a teacher & helpers (35 minutes)

Closing prayer (5 minutes)

*Homework (to be completed with parents' help) for rest of month

Grades 6-8:

*textbook: Catholic Youth Study Bible + Visions pamphlets

*In Fall, classes 2-3 times per month: focus on Bible, the Mass, & service work (youth + parents at some classes)

*In Spring, students will choose how they want to serve their church community (we will train them to be lectors, ushers, greeters, technology folks, sacristan helpers, behind-the-scenes Mass planners, etc.; each student will serve at their own parish). We will gather with them once a month to help them reflect on how their ministries are going and what they are learning.

Grades 9-10:

One in Faith 4: St. Andrew's, St. John's, St. Michael's, St. Mary's

Faith Formation

April 2021

- *textbook: Decision Point workbook & videos + Catholic Youth Study Bible

- *In Fall, numerous service projects & prayer opportunities; time before & after projects, to reflect on how they relate to our faith

- *In Spring, classes 2-3 times per month: focus on ethics/Catholic morality/social justice/healthy relationships (youth + parents at some classes)

First Reconciliation/First Communion:

- *textbook: Alive in Christ + Growing Up Catholic take-home materials

- *Once a month classes on Saturday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM

Confirmation:

- *textbook: Decision Point workbook & videos

- *class meeting times: TBD (youth + mentors and/or parents)

In August, we will send you more details about the upcoming year, as well as the calendar for the year!

We feel honored to join you in helping your children enter more deeply into a relationship with God and with the church community. Thank you for everything you do as parents and guardians. You are a blessing to our parishes!

Please let us know if you have any questions over the summer!

Blessings,

Rita Meyer, Faith Formation office coordinator

Juliann Heller, volunteer teacher coordinator (320 491-7537 faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or message via Remind)

Ruth Klaphake & Brenda Primus, volunteer teachers

P.S.: Thank you also, for registering in Spring! When we can order the books early (in Spring) we get a discount!