



July 22nd, 2021

Dear Faith Formation Parents,

Welcome to our Faith Formation Program. Our first day of Faith Formation classes begin on **Sunday, August 15th, 2021 in the Seton building**. Serving as the Coordinator of Religious Education here at Holy Spirit Church is both a privilege and a delight for me. It is a great joy for me to work with the children and catechists of our parish. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you as I work with your little ones. Do not miss the announcement of Family Fun Days in this letter!

Below are a few notes to help:

- **Registration Fee for Faith Formation class is \$25.00 for the first child; each additional child is \$ 20.00. These fees apply to Elementary, Middle and High School Students. Our registration form is consolidated so you can use the same forms for your entire family!**

- **Sacramental Preparation:**

Sacramental Preparation will be done differently this year for those receiving their First Reconciliation and First Communion. For First Reconciliation We will offer a one-day retreat for the child and at least one parent. For First Communion there will be two retreat days for the child and a parent to attend. There will be two dates to choose from for each. Separate information will be sent to our families with children able to receive their sacraments.

- **Children's Bible:**

One of the goals of our Parish Planning Days five years ago was for each parishioner to have a loving, working knowledge of the Bible. To facilitate this goal, students in 2nd through 5th grade will be required to buy *The Children's Catholic Bible*. Father Tom is offering this Bible at a discounted price of \$10 (\$30 value) and it will be your child's Bible to keep. If you have not already bought a copy, please see or email me and we will arrange for you to buy one.

- **Curriculum:**

We will continue to use the program from St. Mary's Press called "*Discover! Finding Faith in Life.*" It is an engaging curriculum that will use the *Children's Catholic Bible* as the main text along with their workbook. The goal is to help children dive into Bible stories, discover, and connect them with Catholic teachings and be called to age-appropriate action.

To encourage you and your child to share in God's Word together, each child will bring home a weekly worksheet. Parents are urged to remind, encourage, and aid their child or children to complete and return the worksheet by the next class.

➤ **Folders:**

Each student will receive a Faith Formation **'take-home folder and backpack'**. The weekly worksheet will be sent home within, as well as any communication from myself, the Parish, or the Catechist. Please look over the information being sent home. Please return what is needed with the folder and backpack each Sunday.

➤ **Drop Off:**

Please drop children off at the entrance to the Seton building at 9:15 am.

➤ **Pick Up:**

Please pick-up all K-5th students at 10:45am promptly. Pre-K children will be dismissed at 10:30am. Students should be picked up at the entrance to the Seton Building. For the safety of the children, **only Parents or their registered adult may pick up students. Siblings are not allowed to pick up children.** At 10:50 am, any remaining students will be taken to the Church, to the pews near the choir, for the 11:00 am Mass. This will allow Catechists to attend the 11 am. Mass.

➤ **Service:**

Classroom helpers and substitute Catechists are always needed for our Faith Formation program. If you are able to be a weekly or bi-weekly assistant, or simply an occasional substitute Catechist, please contact me.

➤ **FAMILY FUN DAYS:**

In an effort to encourage our parents in the formation of their children's faith, we are holding Family Fun Days! These will be held during our regularly scheduled Faith Formation time. Parents will join their children for the lesson in the Family Life Center. They will be October 31st, January 9th, and February 27th. I hope these are fun for everyone and I welcome your help in the planning of them.

Enclosed is a calendar with the dates for Faith Formation for the coming year. We look forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. Keep our teachers and our students in your prayers. Come Holy Spirit!!

Blessings,
Bridget Simpson

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