

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
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August, 2020

Dear Sacred Heart Parish families,

Greetings in the Lord Jesus! It is hard to believe that we are at the beginning of another faith formation year. We are excited to get started and to coordinate with you our walk with the Lord. Our prayer is that we continue our journey of faith together in the hope of one day being able to join St. Paul in saying, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

Our K-8 faith formation program will be starting up September 13<sup>th</sup>. In compliance with the current COVID-19 guidelines put out by the Diocese, faith formation will be held virtually for the fall semester and quite possibly for the spring semester as well, pending future information.

To this end, we are going to approach faith formation a bit differently this year. In the past the model has been styled off a classroom. This year the focus will be a family model. A single lesson will be sent out each week, on the corresponding Sunday, for the family to do as a whole on their own time when it best suits them. The goal is to help support the familial bond through communal learning and prayer.

The theme for this year's learning is "The Faces of Christianity". Each lesson will be split into two parts and span the length of two weeks. Part one the family will read/listen to a story of a saint and be provided with a corresponding prayer. Part two will focus on a virtue of the saint and how their life corresponds to the Bible. Further resources and ideas will be provided with the lessons to allow for the creativity of each family. Opportunities will also be presented for the families to show their work to the wider parish community.

A demonstration will be sent out to the parents to explain what the lessons are going to look like followed up by a question and answer session on Wednesday, September 9 via Zoom at 6:30 pm.

We are asking that you still register using the registration form included in this mailing. The registration forms are also available online. Please make sure that your registrations are turned in no later than September 9<sup>th</sup> to ensure that we are able to provide you with the first lesson that will come out on Sunday, September 13.

For those students receiving the sacraments of First Reconciliation/First Communion, or Confirmation, a separate registration for the year is enclosed in this packet. We will need a copy of your child's baptism certificate, unless the child was baptized here at Sacred Heart. You may deliver that copy to the faith formation office as soon as you have it. The parent meetings for these sacraments are required. Please note the dates now and put them in your family calendar.

High School students will continue to meet on Sunday evenings from 7 – 8:00 p.m. beginning

Sunday, September 13. These sessions will be held via Zoom. If you are going into grades 9-12 and would like to join us for our youth group sessions, please include on the registration form or via email the primary email that you use and your cell phone number. Luke can be reached at [shlifelongff@gmail.com](mailto:shlifelongff@gmail.com). The main ways Luke will be communicating with you is through email and the Remind App.

Adult Faith Formation is very important as well, so please know that we will be continuing our small groups this year, beginning in October. The registration forms for each small group are enclosed in this mailing. Please consider joining a group as we will have some great study programs available! Due to the pandemic and the many restrictions we have pertaining to meeting in person, please note what the group you sign-up for is intending on doing for their gathered sessions.

Unfortunately, because we are still unable to have large gatherings on the church property, we will be unable to continue with our parish-wide meals on the first Wednesday of the month that we have done in the past. In addition to the meals, we will not be able to have the Faith Enrichment sessions we typically held after those meals.

Thank you for your continued cooperation with the Faith Formation programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. May the Lord bless you and keep you!

In Christ,

Father Anthony Herold  
Pastor, Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Luke Gregory  
Director of Lifelong Faith Formation & Sr. High Youth Ministry

Andrew G. Schwartz  
K-8 Faith Formation Coordinator