

August, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new year of Faith Formation! We look forward to working with you as we learn more about Jesus our Savior and celebrate our faith together. Young people receive their spirituality from you at home, from our church community, and directly as a gift from God. Your influence on your child's faith development is more significant than any other person or experience your child will ever have.

God showed His love for us, by requiring that we take time out of our busy lives, once a week, to give Him honor and worship, so we can be spiritually healthy. Attendance at Mass gives us the opportunity to be spiritually fed when we listen to God's words as the Scriptures are proclaimed, and when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. We are to receive God's graces through the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once year. We may not receive Holy Communion unless serious sin has been forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Faith Formation catechists and curriculum present and reinforce the teachings of the Roman Catholic faith. Because parents are the most important teachers of our Catholic Faith for their children, it is important for parents to emulate at home the teachings of our faith. We are always invited to come back to receiving the Sacraments, both for ourselves and as an example for our children and to continue to learn more about Him and His Church. Children "hear" our actions, how we live, more than they "hear" our words.

The Faith Formation program provides a safe place for young people to share spiritual ideas, a place where they can pray together and learn more about God, the Bible and the teachings of Jesus and His Church. Worship experiences will also be part of the formation process, as well as youth group activities.

The Faith Formation staff and catechists, work in partnership with you, as you do all you can to help your child become a believing, loving Catholic Christian. The catechists are volunteering their time and talent, and we owe them an enormous amount of support and gratitude.

May God bless you with the Grace to lead your family to Christ.

Sally

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St Mary/St. John
Faith Formation