



Dear Families,

This year we are excited to announce that we have a very family friendly and stress free Religious Education plan put in place to not only bring your family closer together, but also bring you closer to other Tri-Parish Families. We are going in the direction of Family Faith Formation this year.

Due to our program being held in schools, we have to be very cautious with the Health Department Guidelines, extensive procedures, and keeping your family safe and healthy. We have gotten very creative and designed a blended Catechism program for the 2020-21 year. We do not expect you to be teachers, but we ask that you are supporting your child while they are learning, and you are engaging in lessons together while a catechist leads the small group **VIRTUALLY**.

Here is what it will look like:

- Families Faith Formation on Zoom: 1 hour per week. Please, indicate on the Registration form which hour you chose that best meets the needs of your family. There are several options.
- Your family will meet with a few other families virtually on Zoom and will be lead in a group discussion, watch a video, participate in an activity, and spend time getting to know each other while having fun learning the Catholic Faith. Essentially, you will form a little church community with your group and catechist leader.
- Grades K-7 will be together as a family and **“Discover Jesus”** through themes verses chapters. This is not your typical catechism class. You will engage in conversation as a small group and a family. There may be some weekly topic challenges your family will do together to engage in faith at home.
- Grade 8-9 will be in a separate Zoom Virtual Community as they explore these topics with a deeper theological conversation with Catechists who have been trained to answer the “hard questions” of the Catholic Faith. Parents may enjoy this conversation as well. We highly encourage asking questions. In the process of asking questions is when we best learn.
- Confirmation Students (Gr. 10-11) will meet bi-weekly via zoom, at St. John-Sacred Heart Parish Center in St. John, at a local coffee house or restaurant for small group conversations. This gives the students opportunities to better know, and share their faith in a safe space. Locations will be based on COVID-19 cases, and what is best for the students and families. If there is a rise in concern we will have meetings via zoom.
- Activities will include videos, paper copies of activities, and more.

- There will be flexibility in the program and more breaks through the year to accommodate school adjustments and lifestyle changes due to pandemic.
- Small group meet-ups and activities are part of the curriculum. Families are to join in these activities, which will be indicated on the calendar, but may change if there are elevated numbers in COVID-19 in our area. Adjustments will be made to keep you safe.
- VIRTUAL CATECHISM offers many new opportunities where we can offer new speakers for the students to broaden their experience in knowing their faith more deeply. We plan to have speakers join our classes often. We also can make the schedule flexible so you can do catechism before or after dinner and share devices
- We will group families with similar families based on family size and age so that they are getting age appropriate activities and conversation.
- The new Faith Formation Office is located at the St. John-Sacred Heart Parish Center in St. John.

Discover

This year's theme is called "Discover". We will be exploring and *Discovering* Jesus through the Liturgical Seasons, the lives of the Saints, and Living out the Catholic Faith. We look forward to this Journey with you and your family. Please call or email with any questions. This is new format so we are sure there will be some questions.

We will have a Zoom Parent Meeting on September 16th at 6:30PM to explain the format, and answer any questions. The Family Faith Formation will start September 23rd.

If you prefer to homeschool instead of this format please be sure to indicate that on the registration form. The 10th-11th Grade Confirmation Schedule will be different than Family Faith Formation because it is a sacramental year. Please note the differences on the schedules. If at any time you are having difficulty meeting virtually, please call Candace Gehl to set up an arrangement.

We look forward to a more simplistic, less stressful and virtually engaging year of catechism with you and children. We pray that this year's catechism brings you closer together as a family, and as a Catholic community. Family Faith Groups will be formed based on submitted forms September 2nd.

Please submit all registration forms and Tuition by September 1, 2020 to the
SJSH Parish Office
Attn: Candace Gehl
N369 Military Rd.
Sherwood WI 54169

Peace in the Lord,
Candace Gehl
920-470-1239 (cell)