



## The Parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka

P.O. Box 558 | 1590 Main Street  
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

[www.saintstanislaus.net](http://www.saintstanislaus.net)

August 2021

To our Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Faith Formation Families,

We would like to welcome you to our Junior High Faith Formation Program and give you some information about the development of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade classes.

Throughout your child's Faith Formation experience (grades k-6<sup>th</sup>) the curriculum was based on what we call the "meat & potatoes" of our Faith. We share stories of Jesus and His followers, prayers, the 10 Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Bible, Parables, Saints, definitions and effects of the Sacraments, Catholic customs and traditions etc. They have been given the bones of our Faith and hopefully have begun to develop a relationship with Jesus as well as our Church.

In the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade our goal is to take all that they have received to this point and to help them to begin to live the Faith. We share with them ways in which they can more deeply experience God's love for them and show them how they can better love God and each other. In order to do this, over the years, we have developed classes that will be experiential, hands on activities primarily using the FORMED digital platform. FORMED is a web-based program that every family can access from home and contains many resources for the entire family. We ask that if you are not already registered to please go to Formed.org and register. It is a very simple process only requiring your email.

With all of this in mind 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will not meet in a traditional classroom atmosphere that they have been used to. **Classes will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7:00pm beginning Tuesday September 14, 2021.** Following class we will ask that you come into the building for a brief meeting to meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum for the year. Enclosed you will find the class schedule for 2021-2022. The schedule does not include any extra dates such as Family Catechesis or our annual class trip. These dates, once determined, will be communicated to you (likely it will be in the Spring). As I am sure you are aware, having the students in the classroom setting is the best opportunity to learn and experience the living faith. Therefore classes will *only* be in person. Therefore it is very important that students attend all classes. We are not out of the woods quite yet. In the event we are not able to hold class, information will be shared with the families how we will proceed. All that we are planning is an attempt to bring us back to some normalcy, but we must be cautious and mindful of the safety of our children and families.

Many families are very concerned with the new variants that the students will be safe in the classroom setting. As a parent I too hold this concern as well. Please be aware that all students attending classes will be required to wear a mask. We will continue to practice health and safety guidelines to ensure the safety of our staff and students. Therefore, we have enclosed the Screening Form that will be required to be completed each class and signed by the parent (Forms will be available on our website for future classes). Students' temperatures will be taken upon arrival. Any student having a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher or exhibiting other signs of illness shall not be admitted to the class. Therefore we ask your patience as we complete the screening before leaving.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact the office at 85-635-1700 ext. 18. Once again thank you for joining us this year for Faith Formation. We look forward to seeing you and your child on September 14th!

Yours In Christ,

Father John Backes     Nan Kramer  
Pastor                     Coordinator of Faith Formation