

September 2019

Dear Parents:

I am very excited to coordinate the 7th & 8th Grade Faith Formation program at St. Mary's Church. Our first class will be **Sunday, September 15th from 6:00 -7:30**. Our goal this year is for your child to know Jesus and the New Testament. We are doing something a little different: the 7th and 8th grades will all use the same book and all classes will be learning the same lessons. Just for this year.

The books we are using are from Ignatius Press, the "**Image of God**" series. No videos are involved with the curriculum. It will be important for your child to dig out the Bible given to them in 6th grade and bring it with them to class. They will learn about the Bible and how to use the Bible. Their CCD books will be going home with them so when they come to class please make sure they have their book and their Bible. Please advise your child that when they arrive for class they must go directly to the Gym for an opening prayer and announcements then they will be dismissed to their classrooms. Below you will find the schedule and syllabus.

When **dropping off** your child please use the **North parking lot**. When arriving for **pick up**, again, please come to the **North parking lot**. As soon as pick-up plans are finalized, I will send you instructions.

**Five hours of service** will be required for each year. You can donate your service for many of the different events at St. Mary's church throughout the year, including assisting the younger grades and altar serving or volunteering with the musical groups. You may want to assist in the community by donating your time at a Nursing Home. I will also accept attending Mass on a Holy Day of Obligation. As you well know, your children have many talents, whatever they feel will expand their talents and used in the service of Jesus will be considered. Below you will find a Service Hour Log and some suggestions for service hours.

There will be a few new opportunities for your child to grow in faith this year. We are starting a **Youth Group for the Junior High School** aged students. Steve DiMotta will be running this group and I will be there to assist in anything he needs. There will be more information on this in the weeks to come. Also, I will be giving a few extra classes during the year on different topics which, if attended, will also be accepted as service hours. Again, more to come on this.

I look forward to meeting your children. Faith Formation starts in the home. They have already learned so much from you. I hope these classes will further help them on their faith journey. The most important experience your child must have to be fully formed in their faith is to celebrate the Holy Mass every week and Holy Days of Obligation. I cannot express how very important it is for your child to receive the abundant graces Jesus offers them in the Eucharist.

Please pray for the success of our program.

Sincerely, Lori Ryan