

FAITH FORMATION
MAY 10th, 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, SAYS THE LORD; NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER, EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”

PARENTS, TEACHERS OF OUR FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM: How would you like to join me on a video conversation to discuss an idea about next year’s FAITH FORMATION CLASSES, if necessary, TOTALLY ON-LINE. The classes would consist of a Teacher, parent, and child and be run very similar to our classes now. Would YOU like to join ME? E-MAIL me and I’ll set it up.

ALL TEACHERS THIS YEAR - Have you had a chance to talk to your students? Reach out to them, call or send an e-mail; anything we can do to support them in this time of GREAT NEED FOR GUIDANCE. Please check with them, I sure they would love to hear from you.

ALL TEACHERS FOR NEXT YEAR – Biggest question I have for all the teachers is this; will you come back next year? I’m not sure how it will be done or even when it will start but we must continue teaching the youth of our parish. I believe it could be on different days of the week, video-conferencing; you name it, let’s talk about it. Call me.

HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION TEACHERS – No word yet or a scheduled date from the Archdiocese, on opening parishes in the Washington DC area. As soon as I hear from Father, I’ll let everyone in our IC Faith Formation families know that date so we can begin planning on our kids receiving HOLY COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION.

PARENTS - Now is a great time to help them with homework for Faith Formation, spend time with them, watch movies together, share love moments. I pray that this virus will be over soon and our lives will never be the same, especially REMEMBERING OUR LOVE MOMENTS WITH THE KIDS.

CHILDREN – REMEMBER to do your weekly assignments. HELP mom and dad around the house. BE nice to your brothers and sisters and don’t fight too much. God is watching over you. Make sure you LOVE everyone in your family and your community.

PARISH WEBSITE INFORMATION– Please visit the Parish Website @ ICChurchmd.org often to learn about Parish and Faith Formation events. If you have any questions, please contact me (240-577-0923 or deacon.kyte@gmail.com).

CATECHETICAL OFFICE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON SUGGESTED PRAYERS AND ACTIVITIES LIST: Please review this list each week. We will be adding additional prayers and Activities from the Archdiocese when we receive them.

The resources in the coming weeks are designed to help the students and families we serve continue in a spirit of Easter joy throughout the 50 days of the season:

Spiritual: Liturgical Press has this resource, *Praying Together, Praying Apart: At-Home Prayers for Times of Healing, Illness, and Death*. You may find helpful elements in this resource to share with your catechists and families. The resource is linked here in English: https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/PDFs/LP/Praying_Together_Praying_Apart.pdf; and, linked here in Spanish: https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/3788244/PDFs/LP/Orando_Juntos_Orando_Solas.pdf.

In this time when we cannot receive the Eucharist, our Catholic devotions, such as Novenas, offer us spiritual support. The website *Pray More Novenas* provides prayers for a variety of Novenas. You can also sign up to have the prayers sent to you via email as a reminder to pray. I encourage you to consider praying a Novena with your catechists. There is a Novena for the Pandemic, found here: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/pandemic-novena>.

Catechetical: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is such a comfort in this time of trial. He does not maintain a social distance from us! To help our students connect with the Good Shepherd, we have created the attached worksheet. Catholic Kids Media group has a nice Good Shepherd video for younger students - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bd616mLRGU0>.

Back by popular demand, a new Catholic Jeopardy board! In addition to sharing this resource with families, you might also host an online catechist “thank you” event to celebrate the end of the year. You could play this game (and perhaps the previously sent game) as part of the event.

The Gospel teaching of Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life - is the focus for the two resources attached here. The first is designed for Middle School students; the coloring page is for our younger students.

Self-Care: This article written by and for Catholic Chaplains speaks to those of us in parish ministry as well, <https://www.nacc.org/vision/2015-Nov-Dec/Learn-your-limits-to-avoid-burnout/>. As we remain in suspended animation of our ministry, we need to be intentional about checking in on our own spiritual, psychological and physical well-being so we can continue to serve well.

The attached, *thriving in Times of Pandemic*, is a great resource that was shared in conjunction with a video from the Catholic Apostolate Center. The video, *Pastoral Care and Evangelization in Covid 19*, linked here, <https://youtu.be/XYL6mxjQp-s>, is about 35 minutes long.

ACLA (Archdiocesan Catechetical Leaders Association) has made funds available to pay the registration fee for any Archdiocesan catechetical leader who would like to participate in the NCCL virtual conference, “Witness.” The conference schedule is linked here, <https://nccl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Witness-Detailed-Schedule.pdf>. To take advantage of this opportunity, please complete the form below,

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdceNF8tFS1Ag2-pQKP0dO9GYV9WMXb7CB_Z6F1rXlQ3SBUwg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1.

Deacon Bill