



Faith Formation Families,

While the Faith Formation Program for 2019-2020 is over, there were only 2 classes left for the year. I wish to continue to provide to our families ongoing Faith Formation via weekly emails. A wise Sister of St. Joseph, Sr. Katie O'Keefe, once said, "Faith Formation is ongoing and life-long." This year the Office of Faith Formation for the Syracuse Dioceses has changed its name to the Office of Catechesis. The mission of this office is the education in the faith of children, young people and adults which includes especially the teaching of Christian doctrine imparted, generally speaking, in an organic and systematic way, with a view to initiating the hearers into the fullness of Christian life. As the Catechetical Leader for our Parish, I will continue to do my best to educate all of our Parish Families of Catholic Faith under the Office of Catechesis .

There is a question I now have for our families, Is Easter now over? Please ask your children this question. If they answer, "Yes," then we parents need to let our children know that the Easter Season is not over until Pentecost Sunday on May 31, 2020. We as Christian continue to celebrate the Risen Christ until this day. Again, we need to let our children know Easter is not about the Bunny but the Risen Christ.

Over the next few weeks of the Easter Season, I will continue to send my reflections on the Gospel Reading and as well as any additional information from the Office of Catechesis.

This Sunday we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It was designated by Saint John Paul the II to occur on the Second Sunday of Easter which is this Sunday. Some may ask what is Divine Mercy Sunday? It is a special Sunday when the divine floodgates from Heaven are wide-opened and Jesus offers us the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment everyone, who give confession and receives Him in Holy Communion on this day. Divine Mercy is hope wrapped up in a loving God, ever ready to embrace us and forgive even our gravest sins. While we cannot receive Holy Communion on Sunday, it can be a time to reflect on Our Father forgiveness of our sins.

For those families who wish to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. I have included the prayer which was found off of the USCCB.org website. Also, this Sunday, Bishop Lucia will hold an Hour of Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday from 2pm-3pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception., Holly Hour and Benediction. Families may live stream on the diocesan Youtbue Channel at Youtube.com/syrdio.

Have a beautiful Divine Mercy Sunday, Lynn