

July 12, 2020

Dear SS. Peter and Paul Faith Formation Families,

What a spring and summer we are having! Now it looks like our fall will also be different from what we've experienced in the past. After three months of consultations, discussions with local school and public health officials, and with much discernment, the parish Faith Formation Committee and Fr. Trevor have decided we will undertake a family based Faith Formation program this fall. This will not be a "Do It Yourself" program. Our catechists will continue to support you and our parish will be following an approved Catechetical Program. We felt with the issues of social distancing, wearing of masks and disinfecting the shared spaces, it would be impractical for us to continue with class as we've had in the past. We are still working out the details of what this will look like and we will present that to you in late August or early September. As of now, we want you to be aware that we will **NOT** be offering the After School Program from 2:00-4:00, K-5 grade Faith Formation from 4:00-5:15 and 6-12 grade Faith Formation from 7:00-8:15 at the Parish Center on Wednesdays. We hope this gives you plenty of time to make the necessary arrangements for the care of your elementary children during that time. We will re-evaluate the situation in our parish and in our community in late fall to see if we need to make any adjustments to our program for the second semester beginning in January.

We know that many of you were thrust into "crisis" schooling when the schools closed down last March, and that situation may happen again this fall with even more stringent regulations. We are sensitive to the anxiety this pandemic has put on all of our families. Our primary concern is **TO NOT** add any more pressure and stress to your lives and overwhelm you with a lot of lessons. The home has always been the best place for children to understand God and His immense love for them. As parents, when you brought your children to the Church for Baptism, by the power of that sacrament, you were also empowered with all of the graces the Holy Spirit could give to be the first teachers and examples of the Faith to your children. The role of the parish is—and has always been—to assist you in this task. We are ready and raring to continue that mission together this year! We want to help you grow as a household of faith. Prayer will be a key component of this endeavor as well as spending time with scripture. We encourage you to continue to participate with the Mass as you are comfortable—either in person at the regular weekend Mass times, or watching it from home via livestream. This is a unique way to bring Jesus into your home and continue those sacred conversations throughout the week!

For our families with children and youth preparing for sacraments: First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation; we will also plan to have the parents help with the preparation at home. We may have occasional gatherings where we can social distance appropriately. We are working on those details and will be in touch later this summer regarding details of this fall program

We will continue to pray for all of you and stand ready to answer any questions and support you in any possible.

Pray that your family would be one who would be dedicated to serve the Lord. "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

Blessings,

Fr. Trevor Chicoine, pastor

Julie Williamson, K-12 Faith Formation Coordinator