

SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 600 Locust St, Atlantic IA 50022 ~ 712-243-4721

August 14, 2020

Dear K-12 Faith Formation Parents;

We hope this finds you well as we look forward to some exciting new changes for our Faith Formation process this year!

A letter was posted on our parish website on July 12 explaining what our plan for our Faith Formation will be for this fall. Because of the pandemic, we will NOT be offering regular Wednesday afternoon or evening Faith Formation sessions or the After School Program on our parish campus this fall. Instead, we will be using a parent led, home based process from The Pastoral Center called "Faith Stories." The theme for the process will be "God Calls." There are 15 lessons in this series. We will mail two lessons to your household at the beginning of each month. There are two age groups— young children (10-under) and older youth (11-14). We will continue to communicate with you via email and Flock Notes for reminders and supplementary activities throughout the year, so please make sure we have your current and accurate information. The high school youth will be using the Confirmation preparation series, Decision Point, as their focus of study.

St. John Paul II refers to the family as the Domestic Church since it is in the home where faith experiences are lived each and every day. Prayer is a starting point for building a relationship with Jesus. We hope your family will embrace this time to grow in your faith. Julie will continue to send out regular emails with reflections and activities tied to the Gospel readings each Sunday, as well as sharing ideas for family prayer, stories about the saints, and the Liturgical calendar. Catechists will "meet," possibly via Zoom or phone call, with groups of 4-5 families, which will give you a chance to share what your family is working on and answer (or bring to us) any questions you may have. We strongly encourage you to find a time during the week that works best with your family to work on these lessons—possibly continue using sometime on Wednesday or Sunday mornings. By blocking off that time, you will be less likely to be sidetracked by distractions and will be better able to focus on each lesson as well spending time in prayer.


Our **Sacramental Preparation** process (**First Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation**) will also be a home based, parent led process with occasional gatherings at the parish where we can adequately social distance while still sharing experiences as a small faith community. An additional letter will be sent to those families with more details.

The registration fee for each family is \$20, which covers the cost of the booklets for "Faith Stories." The fee per family will be waived if this is a burden. We are excited to share this new process with our parish families. Please return this form to the office by **August 25** to help us in our planning. Options are to scan the registration and email to jwmson@metc.net; drop it in the collection basket, deposit it in the drop box in the alley near the rectory, or mail it to: SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 600 Locust Street, Atlantic, IA 50022, Attention: Julie.

We'll continue to pray for all of our families and ask for your prayers as well. This is our opportunity to help you grow as a household of faith as you celebrate and learn more about your Catholic Faith.

Blessings,


Fr. Trevor Chicoine


Julie Williamson