

*“May our faith be certain. May it be founded on the Word of God; on deep knowledge of the Gospel message, and especially of the life, person, and work of Christ; and also on the interior witness of the Holy Spirit” – St. John Paul II*

As September begins this week, our thoughts turn to a more regular routine, even in this irregular year.

One sign of our moving forward in faith is the start of the school year at Holy Cross School on September 2. Please keep our students in your prayers.

Another sign is our parish staff’s preparations for all types of programming from children’s faith formation to adult faith formation opportunities. As you will see in this message, adjustments have been made to keep everyone safe and growing in their faith.

### ***Children’s Faith Formation Classes:***

Faith Formation will be an at home program this year. We will be offering video teachings and fun projects for families to do together. The goal is for our programming to be fun, faith filled and family building. Families can register on our website. Registered families can pick up materials at any of our three churches.

- St. Bartholomew from 8AM-10:00AM on Saturday September 19 and 3:30PM-4:30PM on Tuesday, September 22.
- St. Maximilian Kolbe from 8AM-10:30AM on Sunday, September 20 and from 4:30PM-5:30PM on Thursday, September 24.
- Holy Cross from 11AM-12:30PM on Sunday, September 20.

### ***Middle School and High School Youth Ministry:***

Our Middle School and High School have been meeting over the summer. We will be kicking off the new school year with an in-person BBQ at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church on Monday, September 7 at 5PM. If those who are entering sixth through twelfth grade are interested in joining, contact Michelle Valcourt. This will be an outdoor kick off and we can include up to 100 people.

### ***Adult Faith Sharing and Faith Formation Opportunities:***

Adult Faith Sharing Groups will be gathering this fall. We are gathering Faith Sharing leaders on September 14 at 6:30PM to plan and look at the building and virtual protocols. If you are interested in joining this gathering and leading a small faith sharing group or if you are just interested in being a participant of a group, contact the Faith Formation Office.

We will also be offering adult video classes and conference calls for anyone interested. We are looking for your feedback when it comes to interest and availability. Please answer this survey so we can know how best to assist you: <https://forms.gle/WT8DHMX41njMK2VF7>

***Sacramental Preparation:***

Our parish offers a wide variety of opportunities for Sacramental Preparation. If you have a child starting grade 1 or older, and you are looking to start the Sacramental Preparation for First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion, contact Michelle Valcourt at [michelle.valcourt@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:michelle.valcourt@portlanddiocese.org). We will be holding an online and in-person gathering for all those entering Sacramental Preparation Year 1 on Monday, September 28 at 7PM. This is for parents only.

If you are an adult looking for Baptism, First Reconciliation, Confirmation and/or First Communion Preparation or you have a child that needs to be Baptized, contact Kris Benson at [kris.benson@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:kris.benson@portlanddiocese.org).

If you are looking to start Marriage Preparation, contact Julie Cannon at [julie.cannon@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:julie.cannon@portlanddiocese.org).

All programming will be starting on or after the weekend of September 19 and 20.

We are called to walk together in faith in these uncertain times. Hopefully you can find an opportunity in the months ahead to grow with others in your love of Jesus Christ and His Church.

Know that the parish staff, Fr. Peter and I are praying for you.

St. John Paul II, pray for us!

In Christ,

Fr. Jack Dickinson