

Dear Faith Formation families,

We hope this letter finds you and your family all healthy and doing well! Be assured that we as a staff have been praying for you during this unprecedented time.

Our clergy, faith formation staff and St. Louise School staff, in conjunction with the maintenance staff and business personnel of our parish grouping, have been meeting to come up with a viable plan for the 2020-21 Faith Formation year. We care about your family and want to make sure we provide the best, safest program that we can.

The diocese and the state have put forth specific guidelines regarding social distancing, cleaning measures and other factors which were critically important in this decision making process. **Based on the protocols that have been outlined by the diocese, there will be significant changes in the Faith Formation program for the upcoming school year. Collectively, the decision has been made that all Faith Formation “live” classes will be held at our St. Joan of Arc location. The reasons include:**

- **Cleaning:** Significant time is required to thoroughly clean and sanitize St. Louise School. If the school and Faith Formation were to both use the same space, there would not be sufficient time after school to prepare the space for Faith Formation classes. Also, a full re-cleaning and re-sanitizing, would then be necessary before the school classes resumed. The classrooms in the St. Joan building are not in use during the day, which allows maintenance to properly clean and sanitize all rooms each day.
- **Social distancing:** The St. Joan classrooms are larger and more sparsely furnished, allowing greater distancing in each room.
- **Since the St. Joan building will be solely dedicated to Faith Formation students, there will be no “cross-contamination” of school space and Faith Formation space.**

In addition to the location, there will be changes to the programs and the curriculum which will allow flexibility for both families and catechists. The options are below:

Grades 1-5

- **Option 1 – In-person/Hybrid Classes at St. Joan of Arc and home:**
 - Mondays: 4:45 - 6:00 pm with an A or B schedule and on-line chapters **OR**
 - Wednesdays: 6:15 - 7:30 pm with an A or B schedule and on-line chapters **OR**
 - Thursdays: 6:15 - 7:30 pm with an A or B schedule and on-line chapters

Each live class will be split into 2 groups to attend every other week (families will be scheduled together). On the off weeks, the new curriculum will allow the children to work at home on a computer or tablet, in conjunction with their books. In the weeks that the children are at home, they can complete their work on any day or time that fits their schedule; however, it should be completed prior to returning to the classroom the following week.

- **Option 2 – On-line program at Home:**

Our new curriculum enables students to more easily, virtually, work from home. Students in like grade levels will be grouped together and check-in with a catechist through Zoom, one or possibly two times per month. Each catechist session will contain a short presentation, followed by the opportunity for questions and answers. These group sessions are required and attendance will be recorded. *(This program is a modification of the “Home School” program of previous years.)*

Grades 6-8

- **Option 1 – In-person/Hybrid EDGE Session** at St. Joan of Arc and home:
 - Mondays (every other week): 4:45 - 6:00 pm supplemented with on-line curriculum **OR**
 - Wednesdays (every other week): 6:15 - 7:30 pm supplemented with on-line curriculumOur 6th grade EDGE students will utilize the Multi-purpose room (3rd floor) at St. Joan. Our 7th & 8th grade EDGE students will utilize The Gathering Place (1st floor) at St. Joan. If we need to split the 7th & 8th grade, we'll use the meeting room across from the office (2nd floor). On-line materials from *Chosen*, *Alteration*, *Youth Bible Timeline*, etc. will be utilized to supplement the EDGE curriculum at home since the hours have been reduced by 30 minutes for each session so as to correspond with the session time of our 1st thru 5th grade students.
- **Option 2 – On-line** program at Home:

EDGE sessions will occur via Zoom, in a similar format to the In-person sessions. These Zoom sessions for 7th and 8th grades will take place every other week on Tuesdays: 6:15 – 7:30 pm. Edge sessions for 6th grade will occur every other week on Tuesdays: 6:15 – 7:30. We will utilize the same on-line materials with 6th, 7th and 8th graders, which will be facilitated via a Zoom catechist and off-week material will be submitted electronically to the Faith Formation office.

Please note: The Thursday evening classroom session for grades 6-8 has been eliminated for consistency in curriculum.

REGISTRATION

- **REGISTRATION SELECTIONS WILL IMPACT THE ABOVE OPTIONS.** If registrations for a particular grade/session are too low, we may eliminate that grade/session.
- **Registration will open on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 12 noon**
- Registration will be available on-line or by printing and returning a hard copy form.
 - On-line registration requires payment submission via a credit/debit card or checking account routing information. Hard copy submissions should be accompanied with a check or cash. Hard copies of the registration form will be available online as well as the offices at St. Joan of Arc and St. Louise de Marillac.
- Please remember that registrations are taken on a first come-first serve basis.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILS FREQUENTLY (2-3 times per week) ... as we all know, changes can occur quickly during this unprecedented time. We utilize Flocknote emails to communicate with our families.

Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated as we continue to navigate these ever changing times.

God bless you and your families,



Fr. Daniel J. Maurer, Administrator



Michael A. Shipe, Faith Formation Director

St. Joan of Arc / St. Louise de Marillac Parish Grouping