

Hello Parents!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Faith Formation School Year!

The pandemic has forced tremendous changes in so many areas of our daily lives. Since mid-March, we have learned to appreciate how truly precious life is! In order to protect the health and safety of the children, their families, and our staff, the Faith Formation Office has undergone many changes.

Our physical main office has been moved out of the main school hallway into the former Sts. Peter and Paul Room located down the opposite hall accessed through the Rotunda. Our designated phone lines and individual emails have remained the same. There are also two new designated emails that will be used to communicate with you throughout the school year in addition to emails directly from the Faith Formation administrative assistant. Please be sure to inform the office of any changes to your contact email addresses. Everything we are using this year is new so although we have been studying and researching all summer, we are still learning ourselves. Therefore, I am asking for your patience and understanding as there continues to be a learning curve for all of us.

Faith Formation has its own new webpage located on the parish website. To log on, please go to staidanparish.org/ff, which will take you directly to our page. You will notice the webpage is designed to be an ongoing active site. You will be able to access updates, calendar events, information, documents, parent meetings, and other general information as the year progresses.

The programs selected for the various grades are our attempt to provide the very best we can for the ongoing religious formation of your children during these challenging times. Our efforts while far from ideal are necessary at this time. We have also included some gatherings to help the children understand that they are part of the parish family. I urge you to return to Sunday (Saturday evening) Mass as soon as you feel it is safe for your families. The disinfection procedures in the Church have been in place for some time now and have been effective. Until you feel you can return, please be sure to participate in Sunday Mass via television or online with your children. Although remote Mass is far from the same as physically attending Mass, it helps to link the viewers to the central worship we share as Catholics. Discuss the meaning of the Gospel as a family. If you need ideas, refer to the Family Mass articles included in the weekly bulletin emailed to all our families.

It is my hope that this school year will give you an opportunity to be more involved with your children as they learn and grow in the Faith. They will need your supervision and guidance. I know many of you are supervising your children's remote learning programs and you are "stretched very thin." All I ask is that you do the best you can to support our efforts. Be sure tests and other tasks are submitted on time to avoid falling behind.

Together, let us pray for an end to the pandemic and a return to some "normalcy" and peace in our world. May God bless us all!

"Miss" Elaine