

July 21, 2020

Dear Parents,

It is my sincere hope that you and your family are enjoying a blessed, fun, and safe summer.

Fr. Bob and I realize we are all living uncertain times and you must be wondering how and when St. Matthew Parish will offer Religious Education this fall.

Whether your child(ren) attend public or private school or are homeschooled please consider signing up for the Religious Education Programs we offer at St. Matthew's.

We are planning to go ahead with classes scheduled in the 2020 – 2021 Rel. Ed Calendar you can find on our website. Please note that if the CDC and or Marathon County guidelines suggest we do not meet in person, or if you do not feel comfortable coming, we will plan to live stream the parent meetings. Parents, students and catechists will be encouraged to wear a face covering. Hand sanitizer will be available in all rooms and surfaces will be disinfected before and after anyone uses the room. Students will be seated at safe distances from others in classrooms. We will do everything in our power to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing.

Our Religious Education Program's mission is to help every member of the family become the future saints God has created them to be. We want the family to grow **together** in knowledge, faith and love with Christ and His Church.

We also recognize your role as the primary educator of your children. Parents are the mind and heart of the family. We are here to help you in your mission to make sure your children grow into the saints God has created them to be. We do not assume you know everything there is to know about our beautiful faith nor do we think of you as teachers. Parents do not have to be experts in the Faith to use Family Formation. Each lesson is written at an elementary school level, and is easily understood by everyone. By simply spending a small amount of time in preparation each week, parents can become familiar with the topic in the upcoming lesson. Additional references from Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are given for those interested in further study of the topic. Many parents have testified to the fact that, through Family Formation, they have come to learn and understand the Catholic Faith better or even for the first time.

On the first Wednesday of each month (September – May) at 5:30pm, families of students in grades K-6th will come to St. Matthew's and we will begin with dinner which will be provided for you. We will meet in the school's cafeteria. After dinner, at 6:00pm the students will go to their classroom and parents will stay behind. Students will work with a catechist who will present the month's topic and teach the first lesson. A speaker will present the same to parents. Before you leave at 7:20pm, you will receive a packet of three weekly lessons. These lessons bring the whole family together to study and then apply the teachings to their day-to-day family life.

For students in grades 7-10 we will provide instruction and particular teachings for their level and maturity and also in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation as well as work to be completed at home in a family setting.

Students in 7th grade will use [One Faith, One Lord A Study of Basic Catholic Belief.](#)

Students in 8th grade will use [Theology of the Body for Teens](#)

Students in 9th grade will use [Altaration The Mystery of the Mass Revealed](#)

Students in 10th Grade will use [Chosen Your Journey Toward Confirmation](#)

Students in grades 7, 8 and 9 will also meet the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm – 7:20pm. If your family is registered for the Family Formation program (k-6th) your children in 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th grades are also welcome to join us for dinner.

Students in grade 10 will meet the second Wednesday of the month with me from 6:00 – 7:30.

Our Registration is now paperless. Please go to our webpage for more information and to register.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Your Sister in Christ,

Joy Orozco