

Hello and Greetings from the Blessed Trinity Faith Formation Office!

We are so excited to begin a new catechetical year with you! Last year presented us with some challenges and hopefully this year will find all of us a little less challenged from the Covid-19 virus. Moving forward, we are offering three options for our Blessed Trinity students in grades 1-8: In-person classes, Family Centered Home-Video, Family Centered Home-Book only. All In-person sessions will be held at our St. Albert the Great location in the Parish Office/Faith Formation Building which is also the location of our Faith Formation office. With the Covid-19 virus situation always changing, be aware that our plans are fluid.

Faith Formation Registration can be easily done by filling out and submitting a form on our website at the following link: <https://blessedtrinitypgh.org/student-faith-formation-registration> If you do not have the ability to fill out an online registration form, you are welcome to come to the Faith Formation Office and register in person. Before registering please carefully read our options and choose what will work best for your family.

Our Faith Formation for the 2021-2022 catechetical year options are outlined below:

Option 1: In Person Session-

We are offering 3 sessions to choose from:

- *Sunday Morning from 9:45 to 10:45 AM
- *Monday Evening from 6:30-7:30 PM
- *Tuesday Evening from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Due to social distance requirements class size is limited and the session enrollment will be on a first come basis. Blessed Trinity Registered Parishioners will be given priority. Non-parishioners will be put on a wait list and contacted with availability by the end of September.

In person sessions will consist of one monthly Family Faith Activity to be completed at home during the first week of each month. We will provide a handout detailing the lesson and activity. Families will send in a picture or response about the experience on the activity each month. In-person sessions will not be held during the first week of the month to allow your family time to work and pray together while completing the activity. The remaining weeks each month will be in-person.

Mask wearing policy: We will be following the mandated guidelines from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Those guidelines are as follows:

**Fall COVID Directives for Parish Faith Formation and Youth Ministry, PK-12
(Communications Department, 9/1/21 clergy newsletter)**

*A new catechetical year is upon us and there is a substantial level of community spread of COVID-19 throughout Pennsylvania, including within the counties in our diocese. Our goal is to provide onsite formation to the greatest extent possible. In alignment with the PA Dept. of Health mask mandate for schools, as well as with the masking mandate in effect in all Diocese of Pittsburgh schools, **participants in our faith formation and youth ministry programs must wear masks for indoor classes and events.***

This applies to all children and adults, regardless of their vaccination status, unless medical or developmental conditions preclude their use. This policy takes effect immediately and remains in effect until further notice. It will be re-evaluated regularly, and is subject to change according to changes in transmission levels and directives from health agencies.

Option 2: Family Centered at Home/Video-Students with their parent/guardian will watch 3 prerecorded grade level video lessons per month at a time that is convenient for your family. Families have the opportunity to go deeper into the lesson with their children in the provided textbook. As in all

Blessed Trinity Faith Formation options, there will be Family Faith Activities to be completed during the month as well. We will provide a handout detailing the lesson and activity. Families will send in a picture or response about the experience of the activity each month.

Option 3: Family Centered at Home/Book-Students guided by their parents will work on lessons each month using the provided textbook. Parents will be given a detailed lesson outline each month. As in all Blessed Trinity Faith Formation options there will be Family Faith Activities to be completed during the month as well. We will provide a handout detailing the lesson and activity. Families will send in a picture or response about the experience of the activity each month.

Faith Formation Registration Fee: The fee for Faith Formation for the 2021-2201 catechetical year is \$25 per student. **Registration forms and Payment are due no later than Monday September 20, 2021.**

Opening Session for In Person Faith Formation: We will be opening our year beginning the first week of October and for each opening session parents are to attend with their child. Our sessions will begin on Sunday morning, October 3rd (9:45-10:45), Monday evening October 4th (6:30-7:30), and Tuesday evening October 5th (6:30-7:30). We will begin with a brief opening prayer service in St. Albert the Great Church. The students and their parents will then be dismissed with the classroom teacher to the Faith Formation/Parish Office building. This will give parents the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and see where they will be attending class. We want all of our Blessed Trinity Families to be comfortable and familiar with our Faith Formation surroundings.

Book/Materials Pick up for At Home Faith Formation: Families participating in our At Home Faith Formation may pick up their books on Thursday October 7th from 5:00-6:00 PM at the Faith Formation/Parish Office Building located at St. Albert the Great. (3198 Schieck Street, Pgh 15227) If you cannot pick up your materials at this time we will also be available during office hours that day. Office hours are 8:00 AM-Noon and 1:00-4:00 PM.

2021-2022 Faith Formation Calendar-This year we are formatting our program to include one week each month for our families to complete a Family Faith Activity for all Faith Formation options. On those weeks, there will be not be in person sessions but each family is responsible to complete and turn in the assigned activity. These activities will be similar the Family Faith Activities that were incorporated into our remote leaning program we had last year. We have scheduled in person sessions for the year, however due to the fluid situation of this ongoing pandemic, things can change very quickly. We will keep you updated as things progress.

Sacraments-First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will take place in Spring 2022. Specific details regarding this will be forthcoming. Our Confirmation date will be assigned to us from the Bishop for our 8th grade students. Once we are assigned the date we will relay that information to our families. We are hoping for Spring 2022, but that will be determined by the bishop.

We look forward to a wonderful year of Faith Formation with your family. Please feel free to contact us at any time. We are here to help you in any way we can. God Bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Eisenbarth and Elaine Garfold
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