

Dear Parish Families,

This is Debbie Thibault, the new Family Faith Formation Coordinator for our parish, St. Anthony of Padua! I am excited for the upcoming year and I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you!

As a wife and mother I know how busy we all are so I want to give you a summer update about our Faith Formation Registration for this upcoming year.

As you are aware, last year in our Diocese parishes implemented the first phase of Bishop Libasci's vision for the restored order of the Sacraments of Initiation. This year begins phase two of his vision which is for parishes to move to Family Faith Formation.

After research and discussion with the Diocesan Parish Faith Formation Office, other area parishes and prayer for St. Anthony's intercession, Fr. Richard and I are pleased to announce that we will be offering Sophia Press Institute's **A Family of Faith**, Family Faith Formation series this year.

Family Faith Formation is a different model. Family Faith Formation seeks to form the entire family. At the core is the Church's teaching that "parents are the primary educators of their children." Our job is to encourage and equip parents with resources to teach their children the Catholic Faith at home and make the domestic church come alive!

So what does this mean and how will it work?

Since the time frame from 8:00-9:15 am on Sunday mornings is attractive for families so they can then attend the 9:30 Mass, we will keep this meeting time.

The entire family (families with **children in grades K-6**) attends the session on the first Sunday of the month, from October - June (9 sessions). Breakfast foods, coffee & juice will be served from 7:30-8:00 am for our nine sessions this year.

From 8:00-9:15, while parents attend the formation session to prepare them to teach the lessons at home for the month, the children attend activities that reinforce the month's lessons.

Children in **Grade 2 (Reconciliation)** and **Grade 3 (Confirmation and First Communion)** as well as any children who have already received their First Holy Communion but who have not received their Confirmation, will attend Sacramental Formation Sessions on the subsequent Sunday mornings from 8:00-9:15 (see calendar).

Our **Middle School and High School** young adults (**Grades 7-12**) will also meet at this same time (see calendar) for Faith Formation Dialogue and Youth Ministry brainstorming & planning activities that will take place outside of the Sunday morning meeting time.

The Registration Fee of \$50.00 per family includes all the materials for your family for the year. If your child(ren) attend Cardinal Lacroix Academy AND you are registered at St. Anthony Parish there is no fee for you to attend. No child will ever be denied faith formation due to

financial burden. If you cannot afford the registration fee please contact Debbie Thibault or Fr. Richard.

Attached please find the Faith Formation Registration Form, the Faith Formation Calendar 2019-20 and a Parish Registration Form. These forms are also available on the parish website stanthonyofpaduanh.org as well as in the church bookracks.

Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to meeting each of you on Sunday, October 6!

In Christ,

Debbie