

Dear Families,

June 27, 2021

This past year has been challenging, to say the least. Many of us have lost loved ones, jobs have been cut back, or eliminated altogether, and we've all been starved for community. I applaud all of you for keeping the faith, even when things seemed so very bleak. And I want to thank you for all that you've done to keep our parish and our faith formation program alive.

I spent much of the early days of the pandemic lamenting that I couldn't run the program I wanted to in a virtual format. And while I would have MUCH rather met with each of you in person, the Lord gently reminded me that St. Paul managed to build up the kingdom by writing letters while he was in prison. So, in all humility, we did the best we could with the resources we had, and in time discovered the blessings that came with all of the restrictions. We discovered that we had more strength and more resilience than we ever thought possible. And, of course, we had our faith to see us through.

One blessing that came from this, for me, is that I've had a great deal of time to reflect on how we are serving the needs of our families. I have an amazing team of catechists who have gone to great lengths to continue to pass the faith on to the children of our community. We've dealt with Zoom bombers, internet glitches and cat filters that we couldn't get rid of! 😊 I am forever grateful to all of them for their commitment to serving God and His church. And I continue to rely on their dedication to service as we move into a time of transition.

God has put it on my heart to make a fairly radical change to our faith formation program. Much thought and prayer has gone into this, and I've sought out the counsel of my colleagues, my team, and Fr. Jeff before making a final decision. There is a need to rebuild our church, and that can only happen by building up and strengthening the domestic church—our homes and families. As parents, you are the first and most influential catechist that your children have. You don't need a degree in theology to pass on the faith, only a love of Jesus and a willingness to live a life of discipleship. Even so, I know many of you have expressed that you don't feel qualified to teach your children about the faith. So we have structured a program designed to do two main things—empower parents to teach their kids the faith, and build a strong community of believers who can walk with each other, hold one another accountable, pray together, PLAY together, and enjoy fellowship with one another.

I know that this is a big change, and that change can be scary. I also know that change can sometimes be necessary, and that God has great things in store for us, if we can trust in the process. I will be hosting two “town hall” type meetings via zoom where I can provide more specifics on how this will work, and answer any questions you might have. I hope that you will be able to attend, and that you will be as excited about this change as I am.

**Family Catechesis info meeting: Sunday, August 8th, 12pm and 7pm**

**Registration is required** (only to weed out any potential bombers).

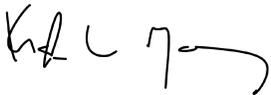
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**Meeting ID: 931 658 9364**

**Passcode: QofA**

If you can't make either meeting, I'm happy to meet with you 1-1. Call or email me and we'll set up a time. Thank you for your trust and openness to trying new things. The Holy Spirit is at work in our parish, and I can't wait to see where He takes us next!

Yours in Him,



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