

August 2, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of St. Mary and Holy Name parish youth,

Summer 2021 is in its waning days and the 2021-2022 Faith Formation Program for both parishes is fast approaching. Faith Formation will begin on Sunday, September 19 and Wednesday, Sept. 22 at Holy Name Church, and the Holy Name Education Center, respectively.

Catholic Doctrine states that the family is the primary place where a child's faith is formed. The Church also asks that parents, as primary educators of children in the faith, attend Mass regularly and pray regularly as a family. In addition, the Church then provides a faith formation program to help you in becoming a faith-filled family. I am very appreciative of parish family volunteers and clergy who dedicate their time to build upon the faith formation your children receive at home. So, some additional reminders:

- ❖ Please encourage prompt and regular attendance to every FF Session.
- ❖ Prioritize completing home lessons during the weeks the class sessions are not held
- ❖ Volunteer your services if you can. Our volunteer catechists recognize the importance of Jesus Christ as central to their life and value the community experience of faith.
- ❖ Stay in touch with your child's catechist.

Remember, the parish family and faith formation program are provided by the parish as additional resource in helping parents instill and share a strong foundation of faith for their children.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's theme for this Catechetical year is "*Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed.*" All of us know that this past year has highlighted the urgent need for healing--physical, spiritual, emotional--be it in ourselves, family, and friends. but especially in our world because of enduring a global pandemic. As our world struggles to heal, complete healing is not possible without Jesus as the Divine Physician. The words we pray at Mass, "*Say the Word and My Soul Shall be Healed*", have the power to remind us to open our eyes to the healing that Jesus offers us in the Eucharist, which is essential, eternal, and ever open to us.¹ This tenet of our faith is just one of many that we must as a family and parish family instill in all of our youth.

A child's attitude toward the Mass, the sacraments, prayer, community service and commitment to Jesus grows out of examples they have witnessed, everyday family experiences, the few hours we have in our faith formation program and most importantly, weekly attendance of Mass as a family. It is our hope and goal to spark an interest and

¹ USCCB, 2021 Leadership Institute and Catechetical Sunday

enthusiasm in your child or children that you can further develop and nourish in your home.

Deacon Rick Roder will be the Director of Catechesis for the two parishes. One of his responsibilities will be coordinating Faith Formation. He will maintain an office at the Holy Name Education Center and be present there every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm before the Wednesday night evening sessions begin. Please address any questions and concerns about the program to him initially. If you are not able to speak with him on Wednesdays or Sundays, you may contact him via email roderr@scdiocese.org or at the St. Mary parish office (712) 786-1437. I also invite you to consider me as a contact. Please direct any questions and concerns to pickt@scdiocese.org or to the parish offices at Marcus or Remsen.

A Family of Faith is our religious education program again for this upcoming formation year. This Diocesan approved program is designed to equip parents to lead their families into deeper relationship with Christ and one another as the Church calls them to do. Our program is open to all families with school age children and adults of any age are welcome to attend our bi-monthly large group sessions too. Grades 1-6 large group sessions will meet in the parish hall basement of Holy Name Church on the first and third Sundays of the month at 8:40 am.

Grades 7-9 will meet at the Holy Name Education Center on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation and other details to what the curriculum and events will entail are still a work in progress. It is also our hope timely announcements pertinent to the faith formation will be published in the parish bulletin, posted on the parish website, or provided to your child or children to take home at the class session.

We kindly ask you to register your child or children online by completing the registration questionnaire on the parish website, mostholynameofmary.org. You may also make payment for the faith formation program (and workbooks, if applicable) on-line or bring or mail payment to your respective parish. Please complete the registration process and submit payment(s) **no later than September 1.**

Finally, we look forward to sharing the Catholic faith with your children. Remember it is our fervent prayer that our parish youth will come to know Jesus and know of the tools to maintain a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord throughout their lives. Because of the parish community's fruitful labor, we also pray that a seed of discerning a vocation might be planted in their mind and heart, be it for the priesthood or religious life. Thanks be to God!

God Bless,


Rev. Timothy Pick

Deacon Rick Roder

