

May 6, 2021

Dear Christ the King Parishioner,

I pray this letter finds you and your loved ones well. It is already that time of year to begin registering your families for catechesis classes in the fall! The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called ‘the domestic church,’ a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity” (CCC 1666). To promote the cultivation of a domestic church in your homes, the Parish will continue to offer Family Faith Formation for families with elementary-aged children and to offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the younger children, as well as a sacramental program during the 2021-2022 school year. Below you will find these program details:

1.) Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) will again be offered for children who will be ages 3, 4, or 5 in the fall of 2021. Children must be toilet-independent. CGS is a Montessori-based religion program. We will have a session available from 3:45 to 5:15pm. A 5:30-7:00pm session is still tentative, depending on whether we find another CGS-trained catechist for it. If you are able, please sign your children up for the 3:45-5:15pm session. Classes will meet every Wednesday, following the Mandan school calendar. Parents of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd children are not required, but encouraged, to attend the Family Faith Formation evenings once a month (see below). If you did not receive a form or have further questions, please contact Amanda Dukart at amanda.dukart@ctkmandan.com. Please return CGS registration forms to the office by July 1st.

2.) Family Faith Formation will again be offered to families with children age 5 through grade 4. We will meet the first Wednesday of each month, starting with a healthy snack at 5:30pm. From 5:45-6:45pm, parents will gather for a talk about a specific faith topic and children for a lesson from a catechist. It is my ardent desire that all families in the parish will recognize this unique opportunity- a time to gather together as a parish family, not only to learn about our faith, but also to learn how families can create a “domestic church” within their own homes. Please return registration forms to the office by July 1st.

3.) **First Holy Communion preparation will continue to consist of two years: 1st graders** are required to attend the Family Faith Formation evenings with their parents just once a month. **2nd graders** are required to attend the Family Faith Formation evenings with their parents as well as weekly Wednesday evening classes from 5:30-6:30pm throughout the month (schedule will follow public school calendar). A detailed schedule will be provided to second grade parents in the fall. Please note that since it is a two-year program, *1st graders must register this year* in order to receive the sacraments at the end of their 2nd grade year. Please return registration forms (same as the Family Faith Formation form) to the office by July 1st.

4.) **Confirmation preparation will continue to consist of two years.** However, during the 2020-2021 year, we transitioned to Confirmation preparation taking place during the 5th and 6th grade years. We have decided to go in this direction because it seems the children already have a real desire to receive the Holy Spirit in a profound way at this age. They also are more open in 6th grade to receiving such a great gift. Therefore, both 5th and 6th grade students are required to attend classes every Wednesday from 6:45-8:00pm (schedule will follow public school calendar). Note that Confirmation parents are not required, but highly encouraged, to attend the monthly Family Faith Formation evenings. A detailed schedule will be provided to Confirmation parents in the fall. Please also note that since it is a two-year program, *5th graders must register this year* in order to receive the sacrament at the end of their 6th grade year. If your child attends either St. Joseph's School of the Holy Family or Light of Christ Academy, he/she is not required but is welcome to attend classes every week, but he/she is required to attend the retreats during the year and must still turn in a registration form (but for a lesser registration fee). Christ the King School students will be prepared in the school, including their own retreats, and need not register. Please return registration forms to the office by July 1st.

Thank you for your attention to this information on our parish faith formation program. The registrations are due a bit earlier this year (July 1st) because I will be on maternity leave during the whole month of August and as much as possible into September (due with baby number 3 on August 4). *Therefore, early registrations are definitely appreciated so that I can prepare all the materials before I go on maternity leave!* I pray you all have a blessed rest of your summer! Please do not hesitate to contact me at 701-390-3275 or at amanda.dukart@ctkmandan.com with any questions you may have.

In Christ,

Amanda Dukart
Director of Faith Formation
Christ the King Parish
505 10th Ave. NW
Mandan, ND 58554
Cell: 701-390-3275
Office: 663-8842
amanda.dukart@ctkmandan.com