



Holy Angels-Sacred Heart Faith Formation

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Dear Faith Formation Families,

As we approach the beginning of a new academic year, we reflect back on the many challenges of 2020. We have been faced with a difficult situation, bringing about much uncertainty, but the one thing that is certain is that Jesus Christ has been with us through it all. As a result of His unwavering presence, Holy Angels and Sacred Heart witnessed the First Communion of eleven students, and the Confirmation of ten students. Now, as we focus on what the new year may bring, we reaffirm our goal for the children of our parishes: to teach them to be saints, to prepare them for Heaven. Even though the means in which we provide faith formation this year will look different, this goal remains the same.

As mothers and fathers, you are the absolute best teachers of the faith for your children! No catechist or priest, no matter how effective, can replace the influence you alone have on whether or not your child has a living faith in God, in the Catholic Church, and in the Sacraments. Religious Education is unlike any other subject at school, because it requires faith. And for faith to be passed on, children need examples to follow. Again, there is no one who influences your child more than you, especially when it comes to passing on your belief in Jesus Christ!

I therefore want to encourage you, parents: you can use this year's unique situation for God's glory and for the benefit of your family's faith! For our part in the parish offices, we will do everything we can to help you build up your Catholic faith at home, and to educate you in a way that you can easily pass along to your children.

This year's model for Faith Formation will be a family-centered one. We will primarily use video recordings featuring Father Wyble, with occasional guest speakers to help with certain topics. These videos will not be very long (around 15 minutes) and will contain key points about our religion and how to live it out in a family setting. We ask that you watch the videos each week, which will be sent to you through **Flocknote**. Please use your own judgment as to whether your child would benefit from watching the video with you or if it would be better to explain the video to them after you have watched it. To help engage with the content of each video, we are asking that you comment via Flocknote, sharing one thing that you found of interest and/or a question you may have that directly relates to the content of the video. Your comment/question, made directly through the Flocknote email, will also serve to verify your family's participation in each lesson.

We invite you to take the information from each video and shape it into a conversation with your children. You know your child best, and however you feel they will readily absorb the material is how you should share it with them. Do not underestimate the effect of having a conversation about God with your children! Additional resources will be given at times to help reinforce and apply the material in the videos.

These videos/materials will be distributed via email/text through Flocknote, so if you have not yet registered, we ask that you please do so and request to join the private group "Family-Centered Faith Formation." You may join Flocknote by visiting the webpages for either Sacred Heart or Holy Angels Church.

A "Catholic Family tool-kit" will also be provided for use within your home. It will contain books and religious objects that Father Wyble will reference throughout the year. We will have the tool-kits available for pick-up on **September 20th**, at both the **8am Mass at Sacred Heart** and the **10:30am Mass at Holy Angels**. Please plan to attend one of those Masses that weekend and receive your tool-kit. Father Wyble will also give a welcome and blessing to all families in the Faith Formation program at those two Masses. If you are unable to attend, other arrangements may be made by contacting Kimmie Gibson, our Faith Formation Coordinator, at 301-769-3332.

For your convenience the registration form has been attached to this email. We ask that you complete it and provide a \$30 family registration fee. Registration forms and payment may be returned to either parish office. Please do not hesitate to contact Kimmie Gibson at [HASHfaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:HSHfaithformation@gmail.com), or Father Wyble, with any questions or concerns.

May God bless you and your families with abundant faith this year!



Father Stephen Wyble
Administrator



Kimmie Gibson
Faith Formation Coordinator