

September 3, 2020

Dear 7th-10th Grade Faith Formation Families,

Greetings! I pray your summer has been wonderful thus far with lots of family time thanks to COVID. (Something we can be grateful for during this crazy time!)

As noted in the opening letter our programs will follow a hybrid model for the year. I hope to meet once a month at Church with each grade level. The exact dates are to be determined for each grade. I will send out more information on the calendar as soon as it is ready. The day of the week will continue to be Sundays at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm for large group Church events as well as online small group zoom sessions.

Small Groups: 7th and 9th grade students will be picking their small groups. 8th and 10th grade small groups will stay the same as last year. (Some incoming 9th grade groups are keeping the group from 8th grade and will not need to pick a group) If you are new to the program and in 8th or 10th grade please contact Theresa at the parish office to be placed in a small group.

Why choose a small group? Having a friend in Faith Formation class makes teens more likely to enjoy their small group time. I strongly believe that a friendship where one's faith can be genuinely shared and fostered will be a friendship that will grow and deepen, a friendship they will have for life. Unfortunately, trials and tribulations are a part of life and to have a friend in Christ will be an amazing support for the youth as they live out their life in times of need as well as joy. **I encourage you to foster these friendships outside of Faith Formation class by:** setting up other service projects together, attending retreats & conferences in the summer, volunteering at Catholic Camp or another ministry together, attend Christian music concerts, and just finding time to hangout outside of class.

How will you pick small groups: In order to pick your small group you must register online. When you are registering your child, prompts will direct you to pick a small group. Names of students already registered for that small group will be available to view. Small groups will be split by gender for all grades.

Important information about small group registration:

1. How many years will they stay in this small group?
 - 7th and 9th grade will be prompted to pick a small group and will keep their small group for two years.
 - 8th and 10th grade will keep their small group from last year and will not be prompted to pick a group.
2. **Register early to ensure your preferred small group slot.** If you are late registering and do not get into your first choice because it is filled I am not able to change the groups or add members. We are keeping the groups smaller to promote an atmosphere of trust and fellowship that can be built upon each year. Each family will hand pick their child's small group, therefore I will not change the group to fit a late registration.

Please mark your calendars for our start date: Oct 25th/Nov 1st. Please know I will be sending out more specific information for each grade in a few weeks. I look forward to an exciting year of Faith Formation!

Sincerely in Christ,

Nichole Chang

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