

FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET, 2020-2021

[Families please keep this sheet as a reference throughout the coming year.]

Please note that any dates listed on this sheet are subject to change in light of the current world-wide pandemic. Changes will be communicated as they occur.

****Class Times, Drop Off/Pick Up:**

Grades 1-5, 5:30PM-6:45PM:

Note the time change from previous years. Drop children off under the canopy in front of church or at the sidewalk leading to the north hall door. (The west hall door remains locked.) You can also walk your children into the hall if you prefer. **Please do not drop off children before 5:15PM, as adult supervision may not be available until that time.**

For pick up, most cars line up and stop under the canopy one at a time for the children. We know picking them up this way takes extra time. However, it is much safer than having the children run through the parking lot in between cars. You can also park your vehicle in the big parking lot and walk to the church entrance to pick your child up, if you prefer.

Grades 6-11, 7:00PM-8:10PM:

Drop off and pick up for Grades 6-11 can be along the front (north) side of the church or in the bigger parking lot area. (Reminder: West hall door is locked.) Please be watchful of students walking and running, especially when it is dark or slippery.

****Prerequisites:**

For Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist: Completion of Gr. 1 and 2 materials are required prior to reception of the Sacraments.

For Confirmation: Students must satisfactorily complete all the earlier grades, participate in the Confirmation program, and be attending Mass regularly (weekly).

****Inclement Weather:**

If a class is cancelled:

1. Catechists will be notified and asked to call each of their students.
2. If school is cancelled for bad weather that day, class will be automatically cancelled that evening.
3. Cancellation will be announced in school if done while school is still in session that day.
4. Cancellation notice can be heard on WKEB/WIGM radio station in Medford (99.3 FM).
5. You can call the Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE), Hannah Schmidtfranz, (715-965-4943) to find out if class is cancelled or if you have concerns about your travel.

****Pandemic, Disaster, and Other Long-Term Closures:**

1. If there is sufficient warning for a long-term cancellation of classes, catechists will send Faith Formation learning materials home with students. Information will be communicated with families through the catechists and CRE via phone call, email, or mail. Any materials that would still need to be picked up will have a designated location and time to be picked up, as communicated by the CRE via phone call, email, or mail.
2. If there is an immediate closure and materials are accessible, the CRE will gather the materials, bag/box them, and have a designated pick-up area and time to be picked up, as communicated by the CRE via phone call, email, or mail.
3. If there is immediate closure and materials are inaccessible, the CRE will share online resources with families via email and the parish website, or mail hard copies of learning materials to families if able (depending on family needs and grade-level curriculum formats).

****Absences:**

Call the catechist or CRE (715-965-4943) if your child will be gone from class. Acceptable absences include illness or emergency situations (students are not "excused" for going to other faith denomination events or other non-emergency events). If a student is frequently absent, the CRE will contact the family to draft an attendance plan.

****Safe Environment Training:**

Annual Safe Environment training is completed in the fall for students. This training is required by our diocese. Parents can refuse the training for their children (see permission/refusal form), but know that it is a program designed to help keep your children safe in different situations, and often when you are not with them. The program called *Circle of Grace* will be used this year. Training sessions are to be held Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

****Youth Image and Likeness Release Form:**

Please complete the **back** side of the Registration Form, which includes this Release Form. Complete **ONLY** the entire YES section, OR the entire NO section of the form and sign only once in the section you want completed.

Note: If you check NO, your child will not be able to have pictures taken, including for First Communion and Confirmation. A new form can be completed during the year at any time if you change your mind.

****Reconciliation:**

Students of Grades 3-11 have two opportunities for this Sacrament during Faith Formation—during Advent and Lent.

****Masses During Faith Formation:**

There are two Masses scheduled during this Faith Formation year: Opening Youth Mass, September 9, 2020 at 6:30PM and Ash Wednesday Mass, February 17, 2021, at 6:30PM. Parents as well as students are expected to attend the Masses, in place of the regular class time those evenings. Father Raj also hopes to incorporate brief Masses just for the students into the regular schedule to demonstrate the importance of Mass.

****Grades 1-5 Christmas Pageant:**

Each year Grades 1-5 youth are involved in a short Christmas Pageant. Generally it is held at the end of the Christmas Season, on the Epiphany of the Lord. This school year the pageant will be Sun., Jan. 10, 2021, following the 9am Mass in the church. **Any parents who know their children will *not* be in the pageant, please let the catechist or CRE know by early November.** Be sure to invite grandparents and friends to that Mass! Thank you.

****Grade 2 Retreat for First Reconciliation:**

Held Wed., February 10, 2021, during regular class time in church. We will provide you with the steps to the Sacrament and allow you time to practice the steps with your children.

****Grade 2 First Reconciliation:**

The date of First Reconciliation will be Wednesday, February 24, 2021, during their regular class time. The first half of class will include a quick review of the steps to Reconciliation, and the sacrament will be administered following that time. Parents are encouraged to also go to confession, if possible, that same evening. This shows the children how important the sacrament is to your families.

****Grade 2 Retreat for Holy Communion:**

Held Wednesday, March 24, 2021, during regular class time in the parish hall. Students and parents will learn the history of the Mass and why we celebrate together today. We will provide you with the steps to the Sacrament and allow you time to practice the steps with your children.

****Grade 2 First Holy Communion:**

First Communion will be Sunday, May 2, 2021, during a separate, special mass at 11AM. Students are expected to arrive in the church hall by 10:45AM to briefly prepare to receive the Sacrament and process into the church with Father Raj. Pews will be reserved for families and a light social will follow. Be sure to invite grandparents and friends to that Mass! Thank you.

****Grades 6-11 Youth Rally:**

The annual diocesan youth rally is set for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Tomahawk, WI. More details on transportation and departure and arrival home times will be communicated as this event approaches.

Call Hannah Schmidtfranz, the Coordinator of the Faith Formation program, with questions or concerns about anything regarding your children and the Faith Formation program (715-965-4943).