

# ST. MARK FAITH FORMATION

December 2018

Here is the last Faith Formation newsletter of 2018. Such a wonderful and blessed time of the year, also a bit crazy for everyone.

I do want to open the invitation to all of our parents for a very special upcoming event. On Wednesday, December 12 the Church will celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. There will be Mass in Hampton at 7:00pm with a special reception following. It would be a great way for many of our parishioners to have a new experience and better understand how global our faith is. If any of the religious education families would prefer to take their children to this Mass instead of having them attend RE class I think it is wonderful idea. All I ask is that as always, please let me know if your child will be absent from class.

We have been struggling with the attendance on those assigned for our Youth Led Ministry Masses. We know that things come up, but do ask that each of our families makes every effort to attend these Masses. If you are unable to be here, please contact me ASAP so I can try and find substitutes.

## **Saturday, December 1**

Lector: JT Uhlenberg, Avery Buresh

Servers: Kyli Koenigsfeld, Addison Fett

Baskets: Chase Koenigsfeld, Makayla Howland, Cody Hickethier, Addison Harper

Greeters: Mitch Brennan, Hannah Uhlenberg, Hailey Archer

Gift Bearers: Owen Fett, Chase Howland, Marisol Lara, Valerie Williams

Bulletins: Caitlyn Archer, Zach Hickethier, Kyler Williams, Anica Reimer

A reminder that I am now "setting up shop" on Tuesday afternoons at Coffee Attic (3:00-5:30pm). Any adults or youth that want to come, sit and have a chat in a comfortable casual setting, that would be great. There may even be times that Fr. Kevin will be able to join us.

Our older students decided to take on a project this year to show their love and appreciation for their faith and St. Mark community. Please check out our display at the **Festival of Lights in Foster Park** weekends during the month of December. While this project was not preplanned, it also was not budgeted for. If you feel called to make a donation towards it, we would greatly appreciate it. If writing a check please put "Christmas Project" in the memo line.

## FAMILY (AND ADULT) FAITH FORMATION

We will continue to offer some fun opportunities throughout the year for all of our parish families to enjoy together. We hope you will be able to join us occasionally for these events.

- **Advent Offerings**

We will be providing a few special offerings this Advent Season.

1. During this Advent season we invite you to join with others from our linkage in reflection and dialogue using FORMED. *If you haven't registered already this is a great time to do it!* Please go to our community page on FORMED ([franklinhardincatholic.formed.org](http://franklinhardincatholic.formed.org)) and select Prepare the Way: An Advent Journey. Watch the video and join in the discussion. Any questions, please let me know.

2. This month the bulletin board in the RE building is all about the Jesse Tree. If this is something new to you, check out the attachment below. Each day during the month of December I will be adding the appropriate ornament and posting what it is and its significance on the St. Mark Faith Formation page (StMark Iowa-Falls). I encourage you to check it out daily and discuss it as a family.

- **Parent attendance for special RE programming**

All parents are encouraged/expected to attend special events offered during the RE year, this include the RE Mass we have every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. This we will also have our annual Christmas Program followed by Birthday party for Jesus. Details for both are below.

- **Alpha (ALPHA)**Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each video talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Sessions will be held two Sundays a month (September-April), for two hours, alternating between Iowa Falls and Eldora.

## SACRAMENTAL PREP

- Please keep all of our students preparing to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Confirmation in your prayers as they continue on their faith journeys.

Reconciliation – Emerson Last, Dylan Miller, Angel Sobraro

Confirmation - Thomas Barnett, Avery Buresh, Brayton Diedrich, Cody Hicketier, Chase Koenigsfeld,

Ivan Orozco, Cailin Reimer, Jackson “J.T.” Uhlenberg, Nic Warrington, Olivia Winkels

- Reconciliation – Parents will join their student for class on Wednesday, December 12.

- Confirmation – Sessions will be held:

Sunday, December 2 (noon-3:00pm) @ St. Mark

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Grades Kindergarten thru 6

- **Class Schedule...**

Wednesday, December 5 (6:15-7:30pm)

Mass **for parents and students** begins at 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 12 (6:15-7:30pm)

Wednesday, December 19 (6:15-7:30pm)

**Christmas Program** (7:00pm)

Wednesday, December 26 – NO RE CLASS

Wednesday, January 2 (6:15-7:30pm)

*Begin the New Year With a Clean Heart* Communal Reconciliation (6:30pm) – Grades 2-10

- **MagnifiKid...** These wonderful booklets are made available every week inside the church entrance. These are perfect for our younger parishioners to follow along during Mass (especially with the harder words). We encourage booklets to be taken home as they do have prayer suggestions and activities for that week, new (current) ones will be put out each week. If you miss a week, the previous ones will be sitting next to the back, feel free to take one home with you.

## Grades 7 and 8

- **Class Schedule...**

Wednesday, December 5 (6:15-7:30pm)

Mass **for parents and students** begins at 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 12 (6:15-7:30pm)

Wednesday, December 19 (6:15-7:30pm)

**Christmas Program** (7:00pm)

Wednesday, December 26 – NO RE CLASS

Wednesday, January 2 (6:15-7:30pm)

*Begin the New Year With a Clean Heart* Communal Reconciliation (6:30pm) – Grades 2-10

- **NCYC...** If you are interested in NCYC in November 2019 be sure to turn in your contract and deposit ASAP (Due December 1). Also, please respond to the Cookie Walk email sent by Darcy Hicketier last week so we can have a successful first fundraiser.

- **Youth Ministry...** December Opportunities:

Sunday, December 2 (6:00-8:00pm)

Sunday, December 16 (6:00-8:30pm) – CHRISTMAS PARTY w/ SUPPER

**Looking ahead...** Plans are being finalized for a special Middle School Mission Weekend and Annual Lock-In. Keep watching for more details.

## Grades 9 thru 12

- **Class Schedule...**

Wednesday, December 5 (6:15-7:30pm)

Mass **for parents and students** begins at 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 12 (6:15-7:30pm)

Wednesday, December 19 (6:15-7:30pm)

**Christmas Program** (7:00pm)

Wednesday, December 26 – NO RE CLASS

Wednesday, January 2 (6:15-7:30pm)

*Begin the New Year With a Clean Heart* Communal Reconciliation (6:30pm) – Grades

2-10

- **Youth Ministry...** December Opportunities:

Sunday, December 9 (6:00-8:00pm)

Sunday, December 16 (6:00-8:30pm) – CHRISTMAS PARTY w/ SUPPER

- **NCYC...** If you are interested in NCYC in November 2019 be sure to turn in your contract and deposit ASAP (Due December 1). Also, please respond to the Cookie Walk email sent by Darcy Hicketier last week so we can have a successful first fundraiser.

Finally, in addition to the Jesse Tree information I mentioned above, I am also including some other Advent related articles/prayers that I encourage you and your family to read during this blessed time of year. As always, have a wonderful month and try to keep in mind the true reason for the season... the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Brenda Koppes, St. Mark Director of Faith Formation

Office: 641-648-9547

Cell Phone: 641-430-0204

Email: [DBQ108ym@DBQarch.org](mailto:DBQ108ym@DBQarch.org)

# Faith Formation Calendar of Events at St. Mark

## DECEMBER

- **Saturday, December 2**

Youth Led Ministries at Mass (6:30pm)

- **Sunday, December 3**

Confirmation Session – Grades 9-10 @ St. Mark Parish Hall (noon-3:00pm)

Alpha @ St. Mark (noon-2:00pm)

Youth Ministry: Grades 7-8 (6:00-8:00pm)

- **Wednesday, December 5**

RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)

Mass (6:30pm)

- **Sunday, December 9**

Youth Ministry: Grades 9-12 (6:00-8:00pm)

- **Wednesday, December 12**

RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Parents attend Class (6:15pm)

- **Saturday, December 15**

NCYC Cookie Walk @ St. Mark (following Mass)

- **Sunday, December 16**

Youth Ministry Christmas Party: Grades 9-12 (6:00-8:30pm)

- **Wednesday, December 19**

RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)

Christmas Program (7:00pm)

- **Wednesday, December 26**

NO RE CLASS

## JANUARY

- **Wednesday, January 2**

RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)

Communal Reconciliation for students (grades 2-10) and parents (6:30pm)