

ST. MARK FAITH FORMATION

February 2021

Let's start off with the topic many are wondering about... the decision made by the Faith Formation Commission last night. Please know that this was not an easy decision and we appreciate all those that took the time fill out the survey to provide us your feedback. ***We will begin gathering in person starting on February 24.*** That being said, we know not everyone is comfortable with gathering at this time. ***If you do not wish to have your children participate in person at this time, please let me know as soon as possible,*** so we can plan accordingly. I will work with you to devise a plan that best suits your family to assist you and your children grow in the faith.

Return to Gatherings Policy:

We placed a lot of thought into policies needed in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. If you have any questions or concerns about the following, please feel free to contact me.

- Keep children home when they are sick or have family members at home who are ill, especially with acute respiratory symptoms (not allergies or chronic conditions).
- If children become sick during class time, parents will be notified immediately to come pick up all their children.
- Masks must be worn at all times in St. Mark buildings.
- Seats will be assigned in each class area, maintaining a minimum of six feet distance between each.
- Everyone will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering St. Mark buildings and class areas and be expected to keep their hands to themselves.
- Student materials will be kept in individual containers and at their assigned seats for class each week.
- Only students and catechists will be allowed inside the buildings, unless otherwise specified. Parents can wait outside the front doors of the RE building to pick up students after class, we encourage you to utilize older siblings when possible.
- NO Food/drink/treats will be allowed at this time.

We will still have our **virtual family activity night** next week (**February 10**). Our topic will be Lent, so I encourage you to take some time prior to our session to discuss some

things your family may do this year during this important season. Connection information is:

Kindergarten – Grade 3:

- See note above regarding classes for the remainder of the year.
- Continue to do weekly home lessons using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies. Once this set runs out, they will be used in the classroom each week, then sent home.
- Family Activity Night next week (February 10). Connection information above.

Grades 4-5:

- See note above regarding classes for the remainder of the year.
- Continue to do weekly home lessons using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies. Once this set runs out, they will be used in the classroom each week, then sent home.
- Family Activity Night next week (February 10). Connection information above.

Grades 6-8:

- See note above regarding classes for the remainder of the year.
- Continue to do weekly home lessons using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies. Once this set runs out, they will be used in the classroom each week, then sent home.
- Family Activity Night next week (February 10). Connection information above.
- **Youth Ministry**
 - *Virtual gatherings* for youth in **grades 6-12**, are held once per month. Our next gathering will be Sunday, February 28 (6:45-8:00pm). Join us for fun, fellowship (sometimes with prizes) and to pray. Connection information:
 - Topic: Youth Ministry:
 - Time: once per month on Sundays (6:45-8:15pm)
 - Join: contact me for meeting connection information.
 - **NCYC...** We have begun some fundraising for those interested in attending in November 2021. I will receive an update next week and will send out an email to everyone. Please watch and respond to this email as we will need to know tentative numbers by March 1.

Grades 9-10:

- Parents will be receiving an email from me tomorrow regarding sessions. I will need a response ASAP, so please watch for this email.
 - Our next session will be held on Sunday, February 14 (5:30-8:30pm). As always please be ready and have all needed supplies with you so we can begin on time.
 - Family Activity Night next week (February 10). Connection information above.
 - **Youth Ministry**
 - *Virtual gatherings* for youth in **grades 6-12**, are held once per month. Our next gathering will be Sunday, February 28 (6:45-8:00pm). Join us for fun, fellowship (sometimes with prizes) and to pray. Connection information:
Topic: Youth Ministry:
Time: once per month on Sundays (6:45-8:15pm)
-
-

- **NCYC...** We have begun some fundraising for those interested in attending in November 2021. I will receive an update next week and will send out an email to everyone. Please watch and respond to this email as we will need to know tentative numbers by March 1.

Family (and Adult) Faith Formation:

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

- **Mass**

While the dispensation of Mass attendance has not been lifted we do still encourage you to participate in Mass each week. We now live-stream Masses from St. Mark daily and weekend (currently Sunday at 10:30am). The connection to watch live or watch it later can be found on our linkage website: <http://franklinhardincatholic.org> or linkage Facebook page: *Mark Mary*.

- **Ash Wednesday**

We will NOT have class on Wednesday, February 17. This is Ash Wednesday. All students and their families are expected to attend Mass either in-person or virtually. Mass will be at St. Mark at 6:30pm and can be found on our Facebook pages and linkage website.

- **Lent**

Learn more about what has been planned for this special liturgical season. Check

out the bulletin, Facebook, and watch for a mailing to come to your home in the next week. We hope you will take advantage of at least a few of these offerings.

As a reminder, you can see our Faith Formation calendar on our linkage website or ask permission to add it to your Google account. Blessings to everyone this week! I hope you all stay healthy and safe, especially in the weather we are expected to get in the next 24 hours.

Brenda Strayer
St. Mark Director of Faith Formation