

# ST. MARK FAITH FORMATION

## July 2021

I pray that you all have had a wonderful summer so far. I cannot believe how fast it is going, but that always seems to happen. It is exciting to begin having more people in attendance at Mass now that the dispensation (permission to not attend) has been lifted. We hope to see you soon if you have not come back yet.

We are going to kick off our new year with a SPLASH! Mark your calendars and plan to join us at **MMAC on Sunday, July 25 (8:00-10:00pm)** for our **"Splash into Faith Formation Pool Party"**. This is open to all families with children in **grades Pre-K thru 12**. Programming information & calendars, and Totus Tuus RE Registration will be available during the party. Drinks and snacks provided as well. We hope you will join us for a fun night! (See attached flier.)

## 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.

- **Totus Tuus** – This is NOT only for kids as we need adults to help make this happen. Totus Tuus will be held at St. Mark on **August 1-6**: Grade K-6 on Monday through Friday (9:00am-2:30pm), Grades 7-12 on Sunday through Thursday (6:45-9:15pm)!!! If you have any questions or are interested in helping, see our linkage bulletin, our Facebook page for upcoming daily updates/suggestions or contact Brenda.
- **St. Joseph Book Talk** – This fall we will have our next group to delve into this amazing man that we typically do not know much about. (Those who attended gatherings this summer very much enjoyed it and are impressed with how much they learned.) Gatherings are held weekly and offered in-person and virtually. Watch the bulletin for more details or contact Brenda Strayer.

## SACRAMENTAL PREP

- **Reconciliation**
  - Congratulations to Bennett Bridgewater, Kamden Hansen, and Kael Williams that received this beautiful gift of the Church for the first-time last month.
- **Confirmation Class**
  - Work on homily notes, service hours, and saint reports
  - **Contact Brenda to set up your exit interview.**
  - We have our final sessions planned - August 15 @ St. Mark (4:00-6:00pm)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Grades Kindergarten thru 5

- **Totus Tuus** – If you haven't already, please sign up your students soon so we can plan. Totus Tuus will be held at St. Mark on **August 2-6**. Grade 1-6 - Monday through Friday (9:00am-2:30pm). Student drop off will be in the parish hall. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda at the office. (Links to the registration and liability waiver forms can be found [here](#). Each family MUST fill out a registration form, each student MUST have a liability waiver.)

- **MagnifiKid...** We continue to have these books available in the church entrances. We encourage you to have your student grab one each week as they come into Mass. I encourage all of our Kindergarten through Grade 3 students to use these to follow along with during Mass, and for you to discuss them and pray together afterwards.
- **Altar Servers...** Fr. Kevin is excited to bring back altar servers during our Masses. If your child has received their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Eucharist and is interested in serving in this capacity, please return [this form](#) ASAP.

## Grades 6 thru 8

- **Totus Tuus** – If you haven't already, please sign up your students soon so we can plan. Totus Tuus will be held at St. Mark on **August 1-5**. Grade 1-6 - Monday through Friday (9:00am-2:30pm), Grades 7-12 - Sunday through Thursday (6:45-9:15pm). Student drop off will be in the parish hall. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda at the office. (Links to the registration and liability waiver forms can be found [here](#). Each family MUST fill out a registration form, each student MUST have a liability waiver.)
- **Altar Servers...** Fr. Kevin is excited to bring back altar servers during our Masses. If your child has received their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Eucharist and is interested in serving in this capacity, please return [this form](#) ASAP
- **Youth Ministry** - Watch the bulletin, Facebook, and your text messages as monthly events will begin again soon.

## Grades 9 thru 12

- **Totus Tuus** – If you haven't already, please sign up your students soon so we can plan. Totus Tuus will be held at St. Mark on **July 28 - August 2**. Grades 7-12 - Sunday through Thursday (6:45-9:15pm!!! We will gather in the parish hall. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda at the office. (Links to the registration and liability waiver forms can be found [here](#). Each family MUST fill out a registration form, each student MUST have a liability waiver.)
- **Youth Ministry** - Watch the bulletin, Facebook, and your text messages as monthly events will begin again soon.
- **NCYC...**
  - Raffle Tickets are currently being sold. Due to generous donors, we are able to offer some great prizes. Tickets may be purchased at Mass or by contacting Brenda or any else attending NCYC this fall.
  - RAGBRAI dinner at St. Mark August 27. Work in the dining room (3:30pm-?)
  - Please watch your email and respond to the gathered session date find so we can get them on our calendars. These are MANDATORY to attend if you plan to go to NCYC in November.
  - **EVERYONE** – Watch for information to attend and participate in the live-stream opportunities.

Finally, we are looking for some adults that are interested in taking on leadership roles in the parish. Whether it is helping with Religious Education classes as a catechist, helping with Youth Ministry events, or just special programming like prayer services or the Christmas Program. If you are interested in joining us or know someone that would be good, please contact Brenda Strayer right away so we can continue to move forward with planning.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL SOON!!!!

Brenda Strayer  
St. Mark Director of Faith Formation

