

ST. MARK FAITH FORMATION

March 2021

I want to begin by thanking all of you for how well the return to in-person classes went. All of the kids and catechist have done a wonderful job of adhering to the policies put into place. THANK YOU!! We do have a few families that have opted to finish the year home-schooling. Please know that you are still a part of our programming and are welcome to attend any faith formation events at the church as well.

I hope you are all enjoying Spring Break. After having the temperature drop back down a little, it is nice to still be able to see the sunshine and plants turning green once again.

Next Wednesday (March 17) we will have our annual youth led *Stations of the Cross Prayer Service*. Our high school students will lead us in prayer. **All parents are expected to attend** this with your children. This year it will only be available to RE families to allow for plenty of safe distancing. We will **begin at 7:00pm**, but doors will be opened at 6:45. When students come into the church at 6:55 they will be sent to sit with their parents. If you arrive later, they will stay with their class to limit moving around. They will be excused from the church after the prayer service.

Kindergarten – Grade 3:

- We will begin classes each week using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, then they will be brought home.
- Please send your Gospel Weekly workbook back to class with your student so they can do these lessons more thoroughly.
- Stations of the Cross Service next week. See note above.
- See calendar below for dates for the remainder of the year.

Grades 4-5:

- We will begin classes each week using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, then they will be brought home.
- Stations of the Cross Service next week. See note above.
- See calendar below for dates for the remainder of the year.

Grades 6-8:

- We will begin classes each week using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies, then they will be brought home.
- Stations of the Cross Service next week. See note above.
- See calendar below for dates for the remainder of the year.
- **Youth Ministry**
 - We will keep our monthly gatherings for youth in **grades 6-12 virtual** until it gets a little warmer and we are able to meet outside.

- Our next gathering will be THIS SUNDAY, March 14 (6:45-8:30pm). Join us for fun, fellowship (sometimes with prizes) and to pray. The connection will be opened at 6:30pm, so join us any time. For connection information, please contact Brenda Strayer.
- **NCYC...**
 - Remember that **\$50 deposits** for all participants are due next week (**March 17**). Payments can be turned in to me or paid online at our linkage website on the St. Mark donation page (<https://secure.myvanco.com/YGJV/home>).
 - We will be starting our next fundraiser very soon, so watch your email for details.

Grades 9-10:

- Parents & students will be receiving an email from me this week regarding how sessions are going, homily notes, and Stations of the Cross information. Please watch for this email.
- Our next session will be held on Sunday, March 21 (4:00-7:00pm). If they did not bring them last Sunday, please have them bring all 5 Minute in the Church books and their Bible. We will continue to use them in our sessions the next couple of months.
- Stations of the Cross Service next Wednesday. See note above.
- See calendar below for dates for the remainder of the year.
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Mary's Meals:

I am very happy with how our collections has been going. Last week we alone, we collected enough to feed 10 KIDS for an entire year!! I am excited to see how many we end up feeding by the end of the year. A couple reminders:

- **Cups and Calendars**

If you have picked them up from church I encourage you to keep up daily. I hope these

also help your family realize the many blessings they have. (Any money collected can be turned in after Easter.)

- **M&Ms for Mary's Meals**

All students have been given a tube of mini M&Ms. For each tube they return filled with quarters they can receive a new tube of candy. This can be done as many times as they want until the end of the year.

* A donator has pledged to pay the difference so that for every tube turned in, a child will be fed for one year.

- **Coin Jar Challenge**

Each classroom has been set up with a blue Mary's Meals cup. Students are encouraged to bring any coins or cash they are allowed and put in their classroom's cup. Whichever class has the highest percentage by the end of class on April 28 will receive a special treat at our last class.

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*.

- **Opportunities for Adults**

With nicer weather rapidly approaching I have been busy planning ways to start having small group gatherings at the parish. My hope is that many can be held outside as we have quite a bit of space at the church. Be watching for more information about this coming soon.

Previously it had been planned to have a family gathered session for Holy Week. Unfortunately, due to spacing I do not feel that is the best decision at this time. Only students will gather for class on March 31. However, I will be exposing the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration during class time. You are invited to stop in when you drop off your kids (stay as long as you'd like) and/or join as we repose beginning at 7:15pm. They will still be doing special Holy Week activities so I encourage you to talk to them about what they experienced and learned that night.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend.

Brenda Strayer
St. Mark Director of Faith Formation

Faith Formation Calendar of Events at St. Mark

March

- **Sunday, March 14**
Youth Ministry – Virtual (6:45-8:30pm)
- **Wednesday, March 17**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Youth Led Stations of the Cross (7:00pm)
- **Sunday, March 21**
Confirmation Class (4:00-7:00pm)
- **Wednesday, March 24**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
- **Wednesday, March 31**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Eucharistic Adoration in Church (6:00-7:30pm)

April

- **Wednesday, April 7**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
1st Reconciliation Parent Session
- **Sunday, April 11**
Confirmation Class (4:00-7:00pm)
- **Wednesday, April 14**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
- **Sunday, April 18**
Youth Ministry
- **Wednesday, March 18**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
- **Sunday, April 25**
Confirmation Class (4:00-7:00pm)

- **Wednesday, April 28**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Youth Led Stations of the Cross (7:00pm)

May

- **Sunday, May 2**
Confirmation Class (4:00-7:00pm)
- **Wednesday, May 5**
RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)
Mass (6:30pm)