

# St. Mark Faith Formation

## May 2021

THANK YOU!!!!!! I am grateful to each of you. In a year full of uncertainty, I could not have pulled off successful faith formation programming without your partnership. Check out below for information on things to come...

### Mary's Meals...

A special THANK YOU to families that contributed to our "Kids Helping Kids" Campaign. It truly is heart-warming to see these young people so excited to help others. For those unable to join us for Mass last week here is the update:

- Prior to class last week, we had collected over \$300.
- A generous donator was so impressed with the kids' generosity that they decided to not only pay per M&M tube but match our funds. Meaning we will be able to give Mary's Meals \$860.15!!!! We will be able to feed over 40 kids with your help.
- *Adding that total to what the parish collected during Lent, our parish total for the year is \$1471.16!* That is enough to feed 70 kids for an entire year!!!

### Family Faith Formation...

- Since Pope Francis has asked us to put more focus on the Domestic Church (aka Family) from June 2021 to July 2022, we hope to offer some fun opportunities throughout the year for families to grow closer to each other and in the faith.
- Keep watching your email, the bulletin, and our social media accounts for offered events.

### Grades Kindergarten thru 5

- **Totus Tuus...** We are excited to announce that we will be offering Totus Tuus at St. Mark again this summer! The special week of activities (similar to VBS, but so much better) will be held the week of August 1. Links to the registration form can be found [here](#). We will be in need of a few adult volunteers throughout the week as well as some donations of food/meals,

and other items. More details on that to come. Registrations due by July 18, and we are limited to only 75 participants so sign up soon. Please let me know if you have any questions.

- **Altar Servers...** Fr. Kevin is ready to begin having the youth assist him at the altar again beginning in the next couple months. If your child (must have received their 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Eucharist) is interested in helping, whether new or returner, please fill out [this form](#) by May 23. *(If you are not yet comfortable yet coming to Mass, but your child is interested in serving when that changes, please turn in a form but indicate that.)* We will hold a training session that ALL servers will need to attend prior to being assigned. I will provide a couple of different dates to choose from.

## Grades 6 thru 8

- **Totus Tuus...** We are excited to announce that we will be offering Totus Tuus at St. Mark again this summer! The special week of activities (similar to VBS, but so much better) will be held the week of August 1. Links to the registration form can be found [here](#). We will be in need of a few adult volunteers throughout the week as well as some donations of food/meals, and other items. More details on that to come. Registrations due by July 18, and we are limited to only 75 participants so sign up soon. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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- **Mission Opportunity...** I know many of our young people are disappointed we did not have our annual lock-in this year, and to be honest I was too. We are putting together a two-day, one-night gathering with other area Catholic youth. We would do some kind of Service project, maybe a little pilgrimage, and a whole lot of fun. Watch for more details coming soon.

- **Youth Gatherings...** Regular gatherings will be held throughout the summer. We will try to do as much outside as possible in order to be as safe

as possible. We will kick off the summer on Sunday, June 6 (6:00-8:00pm) at my home (444 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Alden) with a meal and a bonfire. Permission slip can be found [here](#).

### **Grades 9 thru Graduates**

- **Totus Tuus...** We are excited to announce that we will be offering Totus Tuus at St. Mark again this summer! The special week of activities (similar to VBS, but so much better) will be held the week of August 1. Links to the registration form can be found [here](#). We will be in need of a few adult volunteers throughout the week as well as some donations of food/meals, and other items. More details on that to come. Registrations due by July 18, and we are limited to only 75 participants so sign up soon. Please let me know if you have any questions.
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- **Mission Trip...** I am hoping that we will be able to provide a Mission Iowa Trip, either by ourselves or with other area Catholic youth. Before I move ahead in the planning I would like to know if there is any interest. Please let me know BY JUNE 1 if you have any interest or questions.
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### **Sacramental Prep**

- Keep *Bennett Bridgewater, Kamden Hansen, and Kael Williams* in your prayers as they prepare to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation within the month. (*Parents will receive an email next week with final details.*)

- Keep *Mitch Brennan, Hailey Bridgewater, Lucas Parcel, and Evan Smith* in your prayers as they finalize preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in August.

## NCYC...

Wednesday, May 19 (6:30pm - parish hall)

Mandatory Meeting for parents and youth

Fundraisers -

SCRIP sales - Month of May

Candy Bar Sales - Until they are gone

Cans & Bottles - Continual (can be dropped off at Cash for Cans or call Brenda Strayer to have them picked up)

## Adult Faith Formation...

- Pope Francis has called on us to take some time to reflect on St. Joseph, our spiritual father, this year. We will be offering a book study about this interesting and little-known about man this summer. Join us beginning in June, with gatherings held in-person & virtually on Monday evenings and virtually on Wednesday mornings. (This study will be offered again this fall for those with summer scheduling conflicts.) Contact me by May 23 to sign up. We already have the books ordered and the cost is \$15. Contact me with any questions or to sign up!
- We will be holding our annual **Rummage Sale** on **July 3**. We already have a great start but hope to add more items. As you are doing your spring cleaning, please consider donating your items to our sale. All proceeds will go to help those planning to attend NCYC in November. Contact Brenda Strayer to set up a time for drop off at the church or to arrange pick-up. Thank you in advance for your help.

Finally, please keep our graduates in your prayers as they move forward to this next chapter in their life.

*Cody Hicketier, Jackson (JT) Uhlenberg, Nic Warrington, and Olivia Winkels*