

ST. MARK FAITH FORMATION

August 2020 UPDATE

Good afternoon! Here is an update full of Faith Formation information. You will find information regarding:

- Registration
- Curriculum
- Material Pick-Up
- Connection Information
- Schedule

Due to recent changes we are now looking for a couple of catechists for younger grades. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact me via email or on my cell phone ASAP.

Registration

- RE registration will be online again this year. The link is the same as last year (www.myschoolsystems.com/ArchDBQ/DBQ108/registration.php?who=student), and you should still be able to sign in with your username and password to register. If you have any difficulties, please let me know. Please register your students soon so we can be properly prepared for the year.
- ALL students, whether they will do virtual/gathered or strictly home-school MUST be registered and pay tuition fees.
- Fees may be mailed, dropped off at the parish office, or brought to material pick-up. (You will receive your total at the end of the registration process.) Please have the money in an envelope with my name on it.

Curriculum

- Weekly at Home (PreK-Grade 8) – Pflaum Gospel Weeklies
Each week parents will be expected to review the 4-page handout for that week. The main focus of these lessons will be on the Mass readings for the following weekend. Periodically emails will be sent to families to discuss how the lessons are going and observations made. These lessons should take less than 20 minutes/student each week, with the final page being collaborative for families with various aged children.
- Monthly Virtual Gatherings (PreK-Grade 8) – Students will gather typically once per month with their classmates via Zoom. To help accommodate families with more than one student, we have divided them up by grade. If you have trouble having enough devices or WiFi, please let me know soon so we can work on a plan.
- Homeschooling (PreK-Grade 8) – If you would prefer to not participate in the virtual sessions and rather do lessons on your own at home, that is also an option. I will work with you to develop a grade appropriate curriculum to do. Please let me know if you are interested in this option.
- High School (Grades 9-10) – As discussed at our meeting last week we will be using a variety of materials. We have purchased a set of booklets “A Minute In The Church” for each student that we will use at sessions throughout the year.

Material Pick-Up

- Materials are being packaged for each family with age appropriate curriculum included.
- To go along with our scripture-based curriculum we have purchased a Catholic Bible for each family. Fr. Kevin will bless them prior to being picked up at the church.
- Two dates have been set up for families to pick-up materials. We do ask that you bring your children with you to pick-up materials. We will do a drive up style at the end of Fr. Kevin's drive-way (we hope to have the lane in front of the church clear). Please plan to attend one of the following dates:
 - * Wednesday, September 2 (6:30-7:30pm)
 - * Wednesday, September 9 (6:30-7:30pm)
 - * If it is impossible for you to attend either of these dates, let me know and we can set something up.

Connection Information

- The connection information here will be used for all our Faith Formation/RE sessions. Please keep this information available, and do not share publicly.
- Please plan to connect at least 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the session.
 - * Students will need to share their screen and show their entire face during the sessions.
 - * Food should not be eaten during sessions, unless otherwise stated.
- Contact Brenda Strayer for connection information.

Schedule

- A schedule for the first half of the year is attached to this email, please put pertinent dates on your calendars. ***Class Schedule...***

Sunday, September 13 – FIRST RE CLASS for Grades 9-10 (5:30-8:30pm)

Wednesday, September 30 – FIRST RE CLASS for Grades PreK-3 (6:30-7:15pm)

Wednesday, October 7 – FIRST RE CLASS for Grades 4-8 (6:30-7:15pm)

Wednesday, October 14 – Family Activity Night (6:30-7:15pm)

- We will be starting later than we have in the past.
- As we have all learned these past few months, schedules/calendars are often subject to change. We will keep you posted as changes come up.
- For those that like Google calendars, below is the link for our St. Mark Faith Formation calendar. This will be the best resource as to when events will be happening in our parish (for all ages) as it is updated daily. Please let me know if you have any trouble seeing the calendar.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=ZGJxYXJjaC5vcmdfMW51Y3VkaGJx dDFjdjA2MTg5aDdiOG12anNAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXJlZ29vZ2xILmNvbQ>

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 are now live-streaming Mass from St. Mark every weekend (currently Sunday at 8:00am). The connection to watch live or watch it later can be found on our linkage website: <http://franklinhardincatholic.org>

- **Bible Study**

We are offering a virtual Bible Study for anyone interested. This would work for adults or older youth. Virtual gatherings will be set up depending on participants' availability. Please let me know if you are interested.

- **Christ Our Life Conference**

The Conference is happening!!!! This year there will be options to attend physically or virtually by livestream (\$25 adult or \$15 youth). Social spacing procedures will be implemented to ensure safety for all attending in person. You can purchase a ticket online for in person or live-streaming: www.christourlifeiowa.com/tickets To view our planned Covid Precautions visit: www.christourlifeiowa.com/covid-precautions Switching from an in-person to livestream ticket is possible if done by Monday, Sept. 21, 2020. More info on how this will work later. Please let me know if you have any questions or are interested in attending this wonderful opportunity.

- **FORMED**

Did you know that our linkage is subscribed to FORMED? We have purchased access for all parishioners, so it is FREE for you! Choose from a wide variety of entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks, and a great selection of popular ebooks—all just a click away! It's EASY and FREE to Register, and there is even an app for your digital devices.

Go to www.franklinhardincatholic.formed.org

Click "Register"

Enter your name, email address, and desired password

You're all ready to access the inspiring and engaging content on FORMED!

I apologize for the length of this email; however I hope that it helps answer questions. Do not hesitate to reach out if you would like more information or have any questions. While this year will look quite different than it has in the past I am still looking forward to another great year!!

Brenda Strayer
St. Mark Director of Faith Formation