

ST. MARK FAITH FORMATION

Advent 2020

THANK YOU to all that filled out our Faith Formation survey earlier this month. With the guidance of our Faith Formation Commission, the decision has been made for us to continue with the virtual sessions and home lessons for Religious Education. We will be re-evaluating again in February. We hope that all our families will continue to be healthy and safe these next few months.

This week (Wednesday) we will have our monthly **virtual family activity**. These are for **parents and students (Kindergarten-Grade 10) together**. You can be on the same device, but out of respect the same rules apply as far as sharing your screen and showing faces. Here is the connection information for these events (the same connection will be used each month):

- Connection Information: Contact Brenda Strayer
- This month we will be learning about the Church's Liturgical Calendar. *Please be sure to have your Liturgical Calendar from the last material pick-up.*

Mary's Meals UPDATE

- Thank you for all that have made donations to our Mary's Meals appeal this fall. We have already collected over \$1100 for the kids. Anyone still interested in donating, we ask that you do so by tomorrow. You can make donations online at: www.FranklinHardinCatholic.org/online-giving
- Beginning next week... we will be taking orders for Mary's Meals apparel. We will have items for children and adults, and the best part is that for each item purchased, a child will be fed for an entire year. Items will be available for pick-up prior to Christmas (some we will have on hand). Keep watching for more details.

Kindergarten – Grade 3:

- Continue to do weekly home lessons using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies that you picked up. These should take about 20 minutes per week.
- Please be sure to have your student prepared (they should have their prayer book and Bible with them) and connected prior to 6:30pm. If possible, they should not be eating or drinking during the sessions.
- Virtual RE Connection Information: [Contact Brenda Strayer](#)
- Once a month we hold virtual family activities. All students and at least one parent is expected to attend these events. In November we will be learning about the Church's calendar. Please be sure to have your handout available. *(See details at the beginning of the email.)*
- We encourage you to check out the Wanderlight game if you have not done so yet. (Links were sent out, but let me know if you need the information again.) As administrator I can see how students are progressing, so if you ever have any questions, let me know.

Grades 4-5:

- Continue to do weekly home lessons using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies that you picked up. These should take about 20 minutes per week.
- Here is the virtual RE connection information
- Virtual RE Connection Information: [Contact Brenda Strayer](#)
- Once a month we hold virtual family activities. All students and at least one parent is expected to attend these events. In November we will be learning about the Church's calendar. Please be sure to have your handout available. *(See details at the beginning of the email.)*
- We encourage you to check out the Wanderlight game if you have not done so yet. (Links were sent out, but let me know if you need the information again.) As administrator I can see how students are progressing, so if you ever have any questions, let me know.

Grades 6-8:

- Continue to do weekly home lessons using the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies that you picked up. These should take about 20 minutes per week.
- Here is the virtual RE connection information: [Contact Brenda Strayer](#)
- Once a month we hold virtual family activities. All students and at least one parent is expected to attend these events. In November we will be learning about the Church's calendar. Please be sure to have your handout available. *(See details at the beginning of the email.)*
- **Youth Ministry**
 - *Festival of Lights...* We will once again be participating in the annual Festival of Lights display in Foster Park. All students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to join us in setting up next Sunday (November 22). We will meet in the back parking lot at 11:30am. Please come dressed for the weather and we ask that even though we will be outside masks must be worn.
 - *Virtual gatherings* for youth in **grades 6-12**, are held once per month. Our next gathering will be Sunday, October 11 (6:45-8:00pm). Join us for fun fellowship (maybe with prizes) and to pray. Connection information: [Contact Brenda Strayer](#)
 - **NCYC...** I have received some questions in regard to NCYC 2021. We will be having an informational meeting to discuss what this may mean for our youth. This is for all current youth in grades 8-11. If you are unable to join us, but would like information please let me know. Connection information for our meeting is: Contact Brenda Strayer

Grades 9-10:

- We gather (virtually) typically twice per month for three hours each (we include breaks). These classes are a combination of Religious Education and

Sacramental Prep. *Please review the Zooming policies with your student prior to class beginning.*

- Here is the connection information: Contact Brenda Strayer
- **Youth Ministry**
 - *Festival of Lights...* We will once again be participating in the annual Festival of Lights display in Foster Park. All students in grades 9-10 are expected to join us in setting up next Sunday (November 22). We will meet in the back parking lot at 11:30am. Please come dressed for the weather and we ask that even though we will be outside masks must be worn.
 - *Virtual gatherings* for youth in **grades 6-12**, are held once per month. Our next gathering will be Sunday, October 11 (6:45-8:00pm). Join us for fun fellowship (maybe with prizes) and to pray. Connection information: Contact Brenda Strayer
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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> or linkage Facebook page: *Mark Mary*.

- **Revelations Bible Study**

Father Kevin is offering a 7-week Bible-study on The Book of Revelation! As there is a lot of talk about "the Apocalypse" and "the end of the world" and it is often a greatly misunderstood book. It is offered IN PERSON and also ONLINE via Facebook Live. Everyone is invited to join us Mondays at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall (there is enough room to space out, wear masks, etc.). Past sessions can be viewed on our Facebook page (*StMark Iowa-Falls*) or our linkage website.

- **Advent**

Advent begins this weekend! Materials to help you celebrate this important time of the year are available in both church entrances. (The chapel entrance is unlocked daily 8AM-6PM so you can stop in to pick up materials.) *Blessed is She* devotional books/journals have been purchased. If you are interested in a book please contact me ASAP.

For those who have asked, we will be having a Christmas Program this year, but it will look a little different. I look forward to sharing it with you next month. Stay tuned!

We will not have class next week due to Thanksgiving! Have a great holiday, though it may be celebrated differently than in the past. You are all in my prayers!!

Brenda Strayer
St. Mark Director of Faith Formation

Faith Formation Calendar of Events at St. Mark

November

- **Wednesday, November 18**
RE Class – Family Activity (6:30-7:30pm)
- **Sunday, November 22**
Festival of Lights Display set up (11:30am-12:30pm)
- **Wednesday, November 25**
NO RE CLASS – Thanksgiving Break
- **Sunday, November 29**
NCYC Discussion – Group B (6:30-7:30pm)

December

- **Wednesday, December 2**
RE Class – Group A (6:30-7:30pm)
- **Sunday, December 6**
High RE & Confirmation Prep (5:30-8:30pm)
- **Wednesday, December 9**
RE Class – Group B (6:30-7:30pm)
- **Sunday, December 13**
Youth Ministry (6:45-8:00pm)
- **Wednesday, December 16**
RE Class – Family Activity (6:30-7:30pm)