

## *St. Peter Cathedral* *2022-2023 Faith Formation Year*



Dear Families,

Welcome to a new year of Faith Formation! I look forward to seeing the wonderful faith community we have with our families! Our classes have two main goals:

1. to teach students the content of their faith (for example, prayers, church teaching), and
2. to help children to grow in the practice of our Catholic faith and in personal holiness.

We are here to assist you in raising and forming your children in our rich and beautiful Catholic faith, but also realize that *you are their primary catechists*. We can see this simply in considering that we have the children for 24 hours in an entire year, and that is if they come every week! (That is only about 3 days of school.) On our own we cannot adequately form them, but we are here to serve and support you. For your child to grow, understand and embrace our faith and our Lord will require you to follow up at home, to pray and to participate in the sacraments appropriate to them.

We hope that the switch to the 9:00-10:15 am class time will help us have better attendance (as reported by your feedback). The only exception will be the All Saints Festival, which will take place on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> after 10:30am Mass, therefore it will include lunch with the whole family. This year I have purposely planned to have one Sunday off every month, so hopefully that will make your commitment more feasible. Because of the 9:00 am class start time, we will not have snack.

### CALENDAR

Please refer to the **2022-2023 Faith Formation Calendar** for dates. It details the entire faith formation year which runs from September through May. It is very helpful if you place all dates on your personal calendar, making special note of the weekends we do NOT have a session too. The calendar for the Atrium might extend longer...TBD later. Sacrament Prep calendars come on a separate sheet. Both calendars are also listed on our parish website.

### NEW MEETING PLACE!

We will meet in the Bishop's Room at 9:00am, where we will pray as a group and then head over to classes. Parents will pick children up at 10:15am in the Gathering Area as we have done in the past. If we begin with a meditation in the Chapel, I will inform you before we meet.

### ABSENCE FROM CLASS

Please **text me, email me or call me** if you know your child will miss class. Our teachers spend much time in preparing lessons, and it is considerate to let them know if they will not have students before the day of class or **ASAP**. My cell phone number is (920)212-0269.

### CURRICULUM

This is a year of Eucharistic revival in our diocese, hence I will look for opportunities to increase devotion to the Holy Eucharist. This might take place through our gatherings before class, or through meditation in the Eucharistic chapel, or through videos in the classroom.

I will order books on September 12<sup>th</sup>, the day after registration. Please submit all forms as soon as you can. A timely registration will help us receive books on time for when class starts.

Textbooks **WILL** come home because of family participation and follow up, so **please return them the following weekend**, as we **will be using textbooks IN CLASS as well**.

### Grades 1-5

We will use **WORD OF LIFE** by Augustine Institute! **WORD OF LIFE** presents the Church and the Sacraments as the great gifts Jesus has given us to progress in the spiritual life. It makes learning the faith engaging and fun with Bible stories, contemporary children's stories, lives of the saints, and activities for a variety of learning styles. Every chapter has a page for parents that provides a brief summary of what the child learned in class and a variety of ways to live the faith in daily life. I encourage you to follow up (last page of each chapter) with what your child is learning in class!

### Grade 6

This year Grade 6 will learn about Salvation History through the **ENCOUNTER, EXPERIENCING GOD IN THE EVERYDAY** video program, by Mark Hart. This program will include watching a short video every other week, having discussions and looking up scriptures. We will also cover **Eucharistic miracles** and practice guided meditations in honor of our Eucharistic revival in the diocese.

### Grades 7-8

Grades 7-8 will be together in one class, following two programs; the first one is on **FORMED** called **YDISCIPLE KNOWN: Experiencing God in daily prayer**. We will be watching episodes in class, holding discussions and looking up Scriptures. In October we will also introduce **Theology of the Body for Teens, the Middle School Edition**, by Ascension Press. This program also includes videos by the **TOB** experts like Jason Evert. I will be providing parents with a parent guide, so you can decide whether your child is ready to complete all the sessions. Some parents may feel that their child is not ready to cover the material on sexuality. Please know that I support you and will work with your preferences! As in the other grades, we will also focus on devotion to the Holy Eucharist throughout the year.

### COMMUNICATION

Parent communication will mostly occur **via e-mail**, or by announcement when we gather at 9:00am. Also, please be sure to check with your child each time you pick them up to see if they have anything for you. **If a class is cancelled** for inclement weather, I will most likely text you through **FLOCKNOTE**. You do not need to sign up with them, as it will come as a regular text. I usually text if my message is very brief.

### SICKNESS

Please keep your child home if he/she feels sick, has a cough and sore throat or temperature of above 100.4 degrees.

### MAGNIFIKIDS

Each child in grades Atrium-5<sup>th</sup> will get a **MAGNIFIKID!** issue **every month**. I will place them in the wooden rack on the wall next to the Bishop's Room on the last Sunday of the month and send you a text when they are ready for pick-up (usually at the end of the month).

I sincerely thank you for entrusting us with your child! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our program. I am truly blessed to be a part of your faith journey!

Through His merciful Heart,

*Annalisa Ogle*

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