

Greetings Children's and Middle School Ministry Families!

At the conclusion of the Rite of Baptism for children, parents are blessed. Part of the blessing you received as parents says that you *"will be the first teachers of (your) children in the ways of faith. May (you) be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what (you) say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

With this blessing in mind, we present to you the "plan" for Religious Formation for assisting parents of children in grades K through 8 this 2020-21 academic year.

We've been following proposals put forth by the school district for reopening schools and are happy to announce our plans for **Family Centered Religious Formation** beginning in mid-September. This program provides a simple way to stay on track for faith formation this year while understanding the difficulties you face.

### **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Our Family Centered Religious Formation program will revolve around the 8:30 Sunday Family Mass and the Sunday Gospel readings. Parents and children participate in learning together while sharing and growing in faith.
- Each family has the option to attend this program in person at the parish or at home via "live stream" (the session will not be recorded). CDC guidelines are being followed for in person attendance.
- Lessons are meaningful for family members of all ages and are also tailored to specific age groups.

### **THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

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| 8:00-8:15 | Arrival at Church and come to one of three Mass locations: The Main Church, the downstairs Community Room, or Rooms 7 & 8 on the second floor.   |
| 8:15-8:30 | Pre Mass-Instruction: Family members attend a brief 15-minute Pre-Mass instruction to help better understand the Sunday readings, the various parts of the Mass, and their relevance to daily living and the Gospel message. |
| 8:30-9:30 | Sunday Family Mass   |
| 9:30-9:45 | Age Appropriate Lesson: A brief 15-minute topical lesson at the end of Mass. All family members are encouraged to attend. (Other parishioners are welcome to stay.)  |

### **STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

- Each student receives a set of age-appropriate pamphlets, one for each Sunday.
- Students review selected material to prepare before the upcoming Sunday Mass.

### **FAMILY ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE**

Families can attend any 8:30 Mass and we encourage you to do this every week. We will also assign students and families to a session attendance schedule since the homily will be presented for the particular age range.

“FAITH” session: Families with children in Children’s Ministry only (grades K – 5)

“HOPE” session: Families with children in both Middle School and Children’s Ministries (K – 8)

“LOVE” session: Families with children in Middle School Ministry only (6 – 8)

**Our calendar of dates for the 2020 – 21 school year and information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sacramental program will be mailed separately.**

### **ADVANTAGES OF THIS PROGRAM**

- A big advantage of this program is that regardless of the session to which your family is assigned, you can attend weekly Mass in person or via “live stream” and **participate in the before and after instruction as often as you like**. The pamphlets students are provided include every Sunday Gospel reading throughout the school year. Students and families can review and take part in the lesson for that upcoming Sunday and are not restricted to just their assigned Sunday session.
- You also have the **flexibility to decide from week to week or from session to session whether you attend in person or live stream**. The choice is always yours. We would love to see you and your child every week whether in person or virtually!
- The readings for the 8:30am Mass will be translations from the “Lectionary for Masses with Children” and the Eucharistic Prayers for children will be used.

### **FALL REGISTRATION IS HAPPENING NOW**

If you have not done so already and plan on enrolling in our program, please complete the attached registration form and send to us along with payment **by August 31**. We want to be sure we have all the necessary supplies ready in time for the start of the program.

We are looking forward to rolling out this new program with the families of our parish. Additional information will be sent upon receipt of your registration form. In the meantime, please direct questions to:

Children’s Ministry: *Lorraine Scandariato*

[lscandariato@resurrectionparishnj.org](mailto:lscandariato@resurrectionparishnj.org)

Middle School Ministry: *Linda Magistro*

[lmagistro@resurrectionparishnj.org](mailto:lmagistro@resurrectionparishnj.org)

May God Bless You,

Father Tarantino & the Religious Formation Staff