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August 24, 2023

Dear Faith Formation Families

I am pleased to announce that we have opened registration for the 2023-2024 Faith Formation year. Our Elementary (K-5) program will continue to be offered on Tuesday mornings 8am-9am following the “Word of Life” program from Ignatian Press. The Middle School and High School programs will both be offered on Sunday following the 10:00am Mass. This Youth Ministry model is very successful in many parishes in encouraging our students to grow from one another and engaging the students in a more meaningful and impactful relationship with Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

While preparing for this coming year I had the opportunity to reflect on several quotes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church which helped me narrow down the focus of this year in a more profound way. One of the central themes that resonated with me was the topic of freedom. “Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so perform deliberate actions on one’s own responsibility. By free will one shapes one’s own life. Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude.” (CCC 1731)

As parents of Catholic children, it is your responsibility, accepted by you at your child’s baptism, to act as the first educators in your child’s faith formation. It is through accepting this responsibility that you can pass along the faith to your children and help solidify their acceptance of the riches of the Catholic faith. My goal this year is to offer your child(ren) the opportunity to truly understand God and grow in faith enough to start asking the questions that are weighing on their minds. Part of that opportunity is placing faith in the optimal time to foster a relationship with God. We did this by offering our Youth Ministry on Sunday. We chose to place God first, above all other things. The Catechism teaches us “Sunday is a time for reflection, silence, cultivation of the mind, and meditation which furthers the growth of the Christian interior life.” (CCC 2186)

My plan is to partner with your family by offering resources to help facilitate a discussion within your home based on the teachings of that week. All parents are also welcomed and encouraged to join us on Sunday to participate in the discussion in adult small groups.

I implore you to join me in this faith formation year to help offer the opportunity for your student and yourself to embrace the Catholic faith in a real, tangible way.

God Bless,

Fr. Darrel Kempf, Pastor