



APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

**YOUTH**

**FAITH**

**FORMATION**

IN THE MIDST OF CORONAVIRUS

# YOUTH FAITH FORMATION IN THE MIDST OF CORONAVIRUS

The Coronavirus has forced us to rethink and imagine numerous aspects of our lives. Youth Faith Formation is another area that will need to look different this year. While we would love to see all of the youth of our Area Faith Community back this fall as we always have, we will have to make many changes to ensure an environment that will work in these current times.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

To meet on-campus we must meet the following criteria:

- We must have a regular cleaning and sanitizing regiment for all spaces and materials used.
- All participants must wear face coverings unless they medically are unable.
- Meet in spaces that provide enough space for social distancing.
- Keep the youth in small groups that do not intermix with other small groups.

More specific details about our plan for safety can be found at the end of this document and on [our website](#).

## OUR 2020-2021 PLAN

Knowing that we will need to spread out the youth much more this year, we will not be able to have as many youths meet on-campus as we did previously. To meet the guidelines, we can plan to have three or four grades in the building at one time. We have had to make a tough decision as to which ages were most essential to meet in person during the upcoming year. Our considerations included:

- Which grade levels are more easily taught at home by parents?
- Which grade levels will be more likely to switch to distance learning in their schools sooner and therefore may need an opportunity for social interactions on a small scale?

We have decided to equip parents to teach their children at home using Family Formation in grades Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We will provide on-campus events for 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade using social distancing and small groupings of the youth. We will also provide family formation options for youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade for those who are not able to meet in person.

## FAITH FORMATION FEES

This year we have reduced our Faith Formation Fees. We recognize that many families may be experiencing financial difficulties and it is our hope that no family would chose not to attend because of cost. With this change we will not be offering any refunds if classes are cancelled because of COVID. We have also eliminated the Family Max and Core Team discount for this year. If your family is experiencing financial difficulties, please contact Mary Grack to inquire about a scholarship.

## PREK – 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: FAMILY FORMATION

Registration Fee: \$15 per Youth

[Family Formation](#) is a great opportunity for parents to fully embrace their role as the primary catechist of their children and grow as a whole family in faith. Parents will come in once a month for Parent's Night and we will equip them with materials, lessons, and provide instruction on this month's lessons. The next 3 weeks, parents will complete a lesson per week as a family at home. Family Formation allows the whole family to learn the same topic at the same time. Parents will be provided with lessons, materials needed for the lessons, and support to help teach their children. With this program, children in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger would not come in for any classes (except 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders – See Sacramental Preparation) and we would not have Sunday School offered this year either.

Parent Nights Schedule (Parents can choose to come either Monday or Wednesday) \*Note: Traditional Family Formation has the children coming in once a month for classes as well. Due to COVID, we are not going to have the children come in this year.

- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>
- Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>
- Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>
- Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: EDGE (OPTION A)

Registration Fee: \$60 per Youth

EDGE is traditionally the program for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders of our Area Faith Community. It will look different since 6<sup>th</sup> graders are also part of the program this year. This year we plan to meet at the church as we are able on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm. Because we will be using a different form, we are shortening the time by 15 minutes. We will also spend much more time in small groups that will meet in various rooms throughout the church. EDGE will gather as a whole group at times in the main church to ensure we can maintain 6'-9'

distance between each small group. Your child will be in a room with a small group of other youth who will be encouraged to maintain 3'-6' of social distance. In the event that we are no longer able to meet as a group, we will transition to meeting on Zoom with a combination of large groups meeting and breaking into their small groups using breakout room on Zoom. We will follow John Ireland School to determine when we can no longer meet in person. If John Ireland moves to distance learning based off of community spread (not based off of individual cases at the school) we will also move to distance learning.

## **9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: LIFE TEEN (OPTION A)**

Registration Fee: \$60 per Youth

Life Teen is the traditional program for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders of our Area Faith Community. This year we plan to meet at the church as we are able on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:15pm. Because we will be using a different form, we are shortening the time by 15 minutes. Similar to EDGE, we will spend much more time in small groups that will meet in various rooms throughout the church. Life Teen will gather as a whole group at times in the main church to ensure we can maintain 6'-9' distance between each small group. Your child will be in a room with a small group of other youth who will be encouraged to maintain 3'-6' of social distance. In the event that we are no longer able to meet as a group, we will transition to meeting on Zoom with a combination of large groups meeting and breaking into their small groups using breakout room on Zoom. We will follow John Ireland School to determine when we can no longer meet in person. If John Ireland moves to distance learning based off of community spread (not based off of individual cases at the school) we will also move to distance learning.

## **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: FAMILY FORMATION (OPTION B)**

Registration Fee: \$15 per Youth

We recognize that not all families will feel comfortable sending their children to the church for Faith Formation during these times. Any age could do the Family Formation that is offered for the younger grades. If you only have older children at home, we can also provide you with lessons that are more age appropriate.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion**

2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will complete additional lessons to help students prepare for the upcoming sacraments. Signs of Grace – You are Forgiven is an online program that parents will assist their children in completing before their 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation. Signs of Grace – You are Loved is an online program that parents will assist their children in completing before their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

As we traditionally have done, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and their parents will come in for Learning Centers to prepare for each Sacrament. We will continue to have these centers as well as the at home lessons that are directly related to the Sacrament they are preparing to receive.

Important Dates:

- Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Centers at 6:30pm
- TBD – 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation
- TBD – 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Centers at 6:30pm
- Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Communion at 8am in Nicollet or 10am in St. Peter

### **11th Grade: Confirmation**

Due to the nature of Life Teen this year and the fact that they will be meeting in small groups most of the time, we are able to differentiate the lessons for 11<sup>th</sup> Graders during Life Teen. That means that during Life Teen, they will be prepared for Confirmation. If your family chooses Family Formation for your 11<sup>th</sup> Grader, you will need to complete Decision Point with your 11<sup>th</sup> Grader as well as the other requirements for Confirmation.

- Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Parent/Candidate Meeting at 7:00pm
- Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – Sponsor/Candidate Meeting at 4:00 followed by Life Teen Mass and Life Teen

## 2020-2021 STAFF

Due to the uncertainty of the upcoming year and the change of format for our programs, we have decided to not hire a Youth Minister for this year.

Mary Grack will remain the Director of Faith Formation and oversee all parish programs for the youth of our parish including:

- Family Formation
- EDGE
- Life Teen
- 1<sup>st</sup> Communion
- Confirmation

Bridget Mathiowetz will be a part time Coordinator of Teen Outreach. Bridget has been a member of our community for the past 2 years. She is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at North Intermediate School in St. Peter and has been volunteering as a Life Teen Core Team member the last 2 years. Bridget will assist in:

- Teen Outreach
- Leading EDGE Nights
- Continued role as Life Teen Core Team member

## Operating Procedures for On-Campus Events

### PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Entrance – Upon entering, youth will go directly to their small group area.
- Dismissal – We ask parents to be at the church promptly at the dismissal time so that the youth can leave immediately and not congregate in the Narthex. If youth are waiting for their parents, they will need to maintain social distancing of 3-6 feet.
- Small Groups – Each youth will be assigned a small group. In their small group 3-6 feet of social distance will be encouraged.
- Large Group Gatherings in the Church – There will be times when the small groups will all gather in the main sanctuary space. During these gatherings there will be at least 2 unused pews between small groups.

### HAND HYGIENE

- All will be encouraged to sanitize their hands upon entering.
- Hand washing and sanitizing will be encouraged as needed through the event.

### FACE COVERING

- All must wear face coverings unless they are medically unable.

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE

- If there are times when food/beverages are available, the food will be individually prepared and served. Disposable cups will be used for beverages.

## HEALTH SCREENING

- All will be asked to do the health screening below before attending an on-campus event.
- Touchless thermometers will be available to screen anyone who is showing any sign of illness.

## AT HOME HEALTH SCREENING

If you/your child has any of the following symptoms, we ask that you and your child not attend on-campus events:

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or has been above 100.4 within the last 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications)
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/ asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 in the past 10 days

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STAY SAFE MN

## Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs

For people (e.g., children, care providers, or staff) who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, send home or deny entry and reference the exclusion criteria in this document to determine when they may return.

**Symptoms of COVID-19 include:** new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least 2 of the following: fever (100.4°F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, congestion, loss of sense of smell or taste, or gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.

If a person has a new symptom (for example, new loss of smell only) with no other diagnosis to explain it, they should stay home and talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19, even if it is the only symptom they are experiencing.

For people who received a laboratory test for COVID-19

[What to do if you're waiting for COVID-19 test results \(PDF\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/waiting.pdf)  
([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/waiting.pdf](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/waiting.pdf))

**Positive test result:** Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.

Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.

**Negative test result but symptoms with no other diagnosis:** Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.

Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.

For people with a COVID-19 diagnosis *without* a lab test OR people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 *without* a medical evaluation (e.g., monitoring symptoms at home)

Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.

Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.



For people with other diagnoses (e.g., norovirus, strep throat) that explain the symptoms, or when a health care provider says symptoms are connected to a pre-existing condition

Stay home until symptoms have improved. Follow specific return guidance from the health care provider or follow the [Infectious Diseases in Childcare Settings and Schools Manual](http://www.hennepin.us/daycaremanual) ([www.hennepin.us/daycaremanual](http://www.hennepin.us/daycaremanual)).

If symptoms related to a pre-existing condition change or worsen, talk to a health care provider to determine next steps.

Siblings and household members do not need to stay home.

**mn** MINNESOTA

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