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August 14, 2020

Dear Faith Formation Family,

Welcome to a new year of Faith Formation at St. Irenaeus! As we move into the fall, we continue to be faced with uncertainty. My prayer through all of this is that we continue to see the light on our faith journey and desire a deeper relationship with God. I look forward to the opportunity to get to know you and work with your family.

After much prayer, study, conversation, and consideration of information from our local leaders, health professionals, and school districts, we have decided to begin our traditionally *in-person* Catechetical Program with Catechesis in the Home (*Kitchen Table Catechesis*). Our program will begin in October. We will continue to evaluate Covid-19, and look forward to the possibility of returning to *in-person* sessions in January. You will have the option to continue at home if you are more comfortable with this method. Our first and foremost goal is the health, safety, and well-being of our children, families, catechists, and staff.

Please know that it is our intention to create a stress-free, faith-filled experience that will engage and support our families. The concept we have created includes a monthly pick up of materials which will encompass a variety of learning methods. Formation, fun, support, and assessment capability will be a part of the package! We will begin the year by safely celebrating Mass. It is at this celebration that our October material will be distributed. Families can choose to attend either Monday, October 5th, or Tuesday, October 6th, both masses will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Sacraments will be also be approached with great care and consideration. If you are registering for a Sacrament, additional information will be sent upon registration. Please be mindful that it is our goal to begin Confirmation preparation for both Phase I and Phase II *in person*, beginning in September.

Enclosed, you will find registration information for the upcoming year. When registering, you will begin with At-Home Catechesis, while choosing the day and time that you would like your child to attend when we return to In-Person Catechesis.

You may notice a new look to our registration form, please review everything carefully and complete both sides before returning. The Media Release is a part of the registration form. Also enclosed, is our new *Emergency Information* form, it must be completed, signed, and returned along with the registration. One emergency form per child is now required.

Please know that all placements are done on a first-come, first-served basis. The prompt return of your completed registration allows us to be able to accommodate your needs, with consideration that class sizes may be limited. As noted on the registration form itself, please submit all paperwork *on or before* **Tuesday, September 8th!**

Many helping hands and hearts will be needed when we return to *in-person* Faith Formation. If you feel called to share God's word with our youth, we will need Catechists. If you are able to remain in the building during your child's class time, we will need Hall Monitors. If you can be available on an occasional basis, we will need Substitute Catechists. Catechist's tuition is waived. Please indicate your interest on the registration form. If you would like additional information, please call or email me. Support, gratitude and appreciation are always provided!

May you continue to recognize the presence of God in your life and in the life of your family. We will keep you informed as plans progress.

Continued Summer Blessings,

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