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August 12, 2019

Dear IHM Parish Family,

I am excited to announce that this September will bring the start-up of a new model of faith formation called “Families of Faith.” This program is designed to offer faith formation for adults and children in a parish community setting. Please see the next page for the “Families of Faith” Information Sheet. All are welcome!

Families who will register for this program to fulfill their children’s religious education requirement should register online through their Parish Giving account. (NOT through Sign-up Genius.) If you need any help with this, please contact Janet Manfredonia in the Nazareth Center offices. Please note that all children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at each session.

Families whose children have already attended Summer Academy 2019 are invited to participate, as well as all IHM Parishioners! You should use this Sign Up Genius Link to sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4AADA92CA5F94-families>

Please note that all children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

We look forward to launching this new model of faith formation. Please pray for the effort!

Do contact me with any questions you may have.

Peace & blessings,

Mary Clinton

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

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**Families of Faith 2019-2020**

**Year #1 Focus – Exploring the Profession of Faith**

**Description:** *A Family of Faith* (Sophia Institute Press) is a family centered faith formation program, involving two gatherings/month from September through April. The first gathering/month is an instructional session for parents and other parish adults, designed to support them in growing in their own faith as well as working at home with their children on two lessons during the month. (Children will be invited to participate in related learning activities while parents are having instruction.)

The second gathering each month is a “community gathering” for parents and children and all parishioners, centered around an event or activity that would be considered a connection with “the life of the parish,” designed to support faith formation and foster living faith. Some examples might include a family service event; advent wreath making, stations of the cross, etc. All gatherings will be anchored to 10:30 or 10 am Sunday morning Mass.

Participation in “Families of Faith” fulfills a family’s 2019-2020 religious education requirement for their children. However, all families (even those whose children attended the Summer Academy) are invited to participate. All parishioners (even those w/o school aged children) are invited to participate. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at each session.

**Registration Directions:**

* Parents of school aged parish children who have not attended Summer Academy 2019 should register through their account on the Parish Giving Website.
* All other parishioners are invited to sign up via this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4AADA92CA5F94-families>

**Dates and Focus Points by month:**

*\*\*All gatherings will begin at 8:45 am and end following the 10:30 Mass; when the Mass schedule changes in January, all gatherings will begin at 8:15 am and end following the 10am Mass.*

**September**

 Sun., Sept. 15 Adult FF w/ child learning activities Our Stories in the Making

 Orientation/Distribution of Materials

 Sun., Sept. 22 Community Gathering (Families together) Service Work for the Homeless

**October**

 Sun., Oct. 6 Adult FF w/child learning activity What Does it Mean to Believe?

 Sun., Oct. 20 Community Gathering (Families together) Service Work for the Gray Friars

**November**

 Sun., Nov. 3 – AFF w/child learning activity Made in the Image and Likeness of God

 Sun., Nov. 17 – Community Gathering (Families together) Preparing for Advent

**December**

 Sun., Dec. 8 – Adult FF w/child learning activities The Incarnation

 Sun., Dec. 15 – Community Gathering “The Jesse Tree”

**January (Start time changes to 8:15 am; 10 am Mass)**

 Sun., Jan. 5 – Adult FF w/child learning activities Jesus the Way the Truth and the Life

 Sun., Jan. 12 – Community Gathering Bring You Babies for Baptism!

**February**

Sun., Feb. 2 – Adult FF w/child learning activities Eternity

 Sun., Feb. 9 – Community Gathering – The Sheep and the Goats - Making Sandwiches for St. Jos. Social Service Cntr

**March**

 Sun., March 1 – Adult FF w/child learning activities – Four Marks of the Church

 Sun., March 8 – Community Gathering Stations of the Cross

**April**

 Sun., April 19 – Adult FF w/child learning activities He is Risen; The Holy Spirit & Pentecost

 Sun., April 26 – Community Gathering Telling Your Story /How will you go out to bring the Good News to the world?