



August 2018

Dear Families,

Welcome to another year of Faith Formation at St. Mary's Parish.

As we continue to strive to meet the lifelong Faith Formation needs of the parish, we will offer Sunday School for ages 3-5 and age-appropriate Wednesday sessions for children and youth in grades 1-9 here at the parish. The following paragraphs give more information about Faith Formation opportunities and registration.

Sunday School (Ages 3-5)

Sunday School will be offered during 10:30am Mass beginning September 23 and ending April 28 and will meet each Sunday, except for holiday weekends. See the back of the Faith Formation calendar for the yearly calendar. Sunday School will be held in the school classroom #8 at the top of the stairs in the school.

Wednesday Evenings (Grades 1-9)

Faith Formation sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings from **5:30-6:45pm** beginning on September 26 and ending May 1. Please note that the time is earlier than previous years. Class sessions will be held each Wednesday except when there are special events or breaks from school. See the enclosed Faith Formation Calendar.

Registration Materials

New this year, the Faith Formation registration and payment will be available online through the parish website. **Please register by September 12.** If you are unable to register online or need assistance, please contact the Faith Formation Office for help.

[www.stmaryswinona.org/Faith Formation/Children & Youth](http://www.stmaryswinona.org/Faith%20Formation/Children%20&%20Youth)

See the link called Faith Formation Registration Form.

Faith Formation Calendar

Enclosed with this letter is the 2018-2019 Faith Formation Calendar. This calendar is for you to keep as a reference. Please note that the Wednesday Faith Formation dates are listed in blue, grade 2 sacrament dates are listed in red, Confirmation preparation dates are listed in brown and so on. The calendar also includes some other parish events that may interest you such as the River City Festival on October 7, Holy Day Masses, the Luck of the Irish event and much more.

Grades 1-9: Opening Session for Wednesday nights

September 26 - All students in grades 1-9 and their parents are asked to attend the opening night and should meet in the church at **5:30pm for the Opening Mass**, which will be followed by a **pot luck supper** in Marian Hall. Hot dogs & buns, eating utensils and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

The Nativity Story – December 19

All children and youth in Sunday School and Grades 1-9 will be invited to participate in the telling of the Nativity Story on Wednesday, December 19, at 6:30pm. We will be practicing on December 5 & 12 during Faith Formation sessions. The older youth will be the narrators and other children will have various roles in costumes. All will be invited to enjoy this evening singing Christmas carols during The Nativity Story. There will also be a Spaghetti Dinner served from 5:00-6:30pm that evening. Help is welcome with the dinner, music and directing the children if you are interested!

Stations of the Cross – April 17

On Wednesday during Holy Week, children and youth will be participating in the Stations of the Cross. Families will be invited to come and pray the Stations with the children and youth during the Faith Formation session from 5:30-6:45pm.

Sacramental Preparation

If your family includes children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist or youth preparing for Confirmation, you should have already received an additional mailing regarding those sacraments. Please contact the Parish Office if you did not receive the mailing.

Catechists and helpers are needed for grade 1-9 for Wednesday evenings and for Sunday School. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in serving as a catechist or helper. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like more information, please call me at 452-5656x5 or email me at jfitzgerald@wacs1.org.

In Christ's Peace,

Julie Fitzgerald
Director of Faith Formation

Fr. Jim Berning
Pastor