

Our Lady of the Assumption
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
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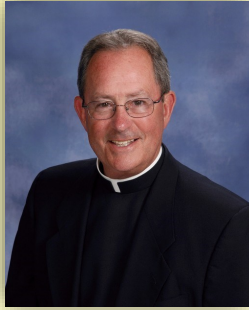
Summer 2021
Volume 6, Issue 1

Living in Faith

A Newsletter from the Faith Formation and Youth Ministry Office

A Letter from our Pastor

Dear Parents, Youth and Faith Formation Children,



Here it is mid-summer and we are looking forward to how we will continue our Faith Formation Program for the coming year: September 2021-April 2022.

Certainly, we are all still very concerned about the Corona Virus. Our goal is always making sure that everyone is healthy and that our learning environment is safe for all.

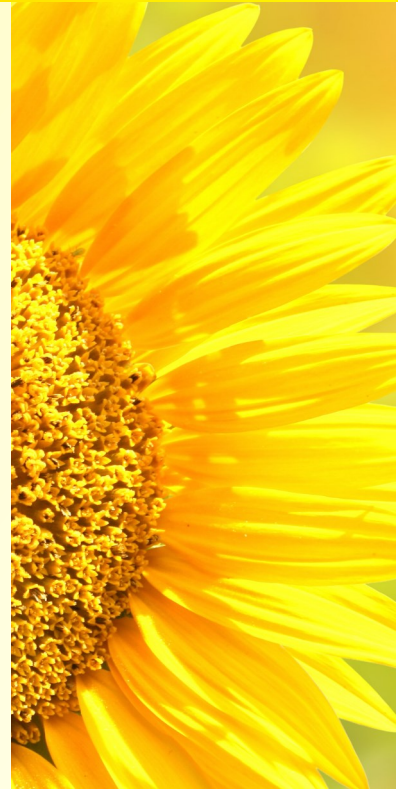
Reflecting on the past year I want to commend you for all your efforts in continuing your catechetical studies at home during Covid-19. You did a great job and I am sure the Lord is pleased with your dedication. Even in a difficult year we were able to celebrate the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation.

This summer I have had the joy of celebrating baptisms on Saturdays. So far 16 new babies have been welcomed into the Church. It is wonderful to see these little ones and the joy that shines forth in the faces of new moms and dad.

We had a short season of BBQ and Games on Monday nights but it was good to see everyone and to enjoy some time together when the weather cooperated. Twenty years ago we started our Monday nights in July. Now we are into the second generation of kickball players. Time flies... believe it!

Please take a few moments to read the following pages regarding our Faith Formation Program and to learn how we will proceed in the Fall. We are truly blessed to have the dedication of Mrs. Pegarella, Mrs. Gavin and Mrs. Coleman. They are always available to assist our families, children and youth.

May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you healthy and safe,
Fr. Burke



Elementary Faith Formation (Grades 1-5)

After speaking with many of our families, we have decided to offer in-person Elementary Faith Formation sessions this fall. The safety of our children and our catechists is top priority, so we will require masks for all children and adults who have not been vaccinated. We have not yet heard what the schools will be requiring of our children and we generally follow their lead. However, we have the unique situation of mixing many different schools and even children from outside our district. We feel it is best for all our elementary children to wear a mask until we can all be safely vaccinated. Even those who ARE vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask. We will ask everyone to sanitize their hands as they enter the building. If you or your child do not feel well, please complete that week's lesson at home. We can email you the complete home study guide with all the directions you'll need. Your child can bring the completed activity pages the following session.

We will continue to use Saint Mary's Press, *Discover: Finding Faith in Life* for grades 1-5. This program uses as its core text, *The Catholic Children's Bible*. Each child received their own Bible to keep and use in future years. Children new to our program will receive their own Bible this fall. Each child will receive a folder with grade appropriate activity booklets for each chapter.



We are planning to meet on Sunday mornings following the 9 a.m. mass. Our sessions will begin at 10:15 a.m. and end at 11 a.m. The Discover series has a wonderful Family Page on the back of each activity packet. This lets the parents see all the kids have just discussed with our Catechists, and continue the lesson all week. There are Saints and prayers on each packet to share with the whole family.

9/19	Catechetical Sunday—Begin at 10:15 a.m. in the church with families.
9/26	Begin in church with families - Chapter 1
10/3	Hospitality after mass. No in-person session—Complete Chapter 2 at home with family & return on October 17.
10/10	No session—Columbus Day Weekend
10/17	Chapter 3
10/24	Chapter 4
10/31	Chapter 5
11/7	Hospitality after mass. No in-person session—Complete Chapter 6 at home with family & return on November 14.
11/14	Chapter 7
11/21	Chapter 8
11/28	No in-person session—Complete Chapter 9 at home with family & return on December 12.
12/5	Hospitality after mass. Complete the Advent lesson with your family & return on December 12.
12/12	Chapter 10
Sat. 12/18	Christmas Pageant—9:00 a.m. in the Church
12/19, 12/26, and 1/2	No sessions



There will be several weeks that we do not gather together so that hospitality, or other church gatherings, can happen. On those weeks, we'll send a home study guide to parents so that you can do the assigned chapter with your child. The guides are step-by-step instructions on that topic. It's everything you'll need to complete that lesson with your child. (Even the page numbers are included!)

If you feel the best way for your child to participate in Faith Formation is to complete the chapters with you at home, and not in-person, we would be happy to make that happen. Please email me directly (kbpola@nycap.rr.com) so that I can gather the home guides for you, or so that I can set up a digital platform for you. Although we'd love to see you here at OLA, we do understand that this may not be the best path for your family, and we don't want to lose you!

We plan to celebrate First Eucharist in early May with our children and their families. As the date gets closer, we will fill in the details.

We realize that these plans may change due to an uptick in COVID percentages. If our plans change we will notify you via email as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please give me a call directly at 518-785-1605. Please leave me a message if I am not there and I'll get back to you as quickly as I can. Your children are one the greatest gifts that God has shared with me. Thank you!

If you have a first grader starting our program, we have enclosed a new child registration form so that we can establish a permanent Faith Formation and sacramental record at OLA.

Blessed by you,

Kristin M. Regarulla

Middle and High School Faith Formation (Gr. 6-8)

I am very excited at the thought of having young people back in the building! Middle School Faith Formation will return to Tuesday evenings from 7-8PM in person starting in October. For flexibility, we will again be using St. Mary's Press Discovery Series because it adapts somewhat to learning from home or in-person. We will be adding special evenings in the church, and large group gatherings either as grade levels, or as a large group for experiential learning. Fall semester for 6th grade will be *Exploring the Story of Israel*, 7th grade will be *Exploring the Bible*, 8th grade will be *Seeking Justice*. Youth should have received one of the BreakThrough Bibles we handed out last year, and 6th graders should still have their Bible from 5th grade. We do have some extras on hand should you need one.

If you would like your youth to have a brand new Bible, they can be purchased at <https://www.smp.org/product/4141/Breakthrough/> for \$29.95 +S&H. Hopefully we will grow deeper into all the sacred Scripture holds for us.

High School Faith Formation is more involved because it prepares the youth for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are planning to return to in-person learning on Monday nights from 7-8PM using the Dynamic Catholic series *Decision Point* beginning in 9th grade through 10th grade when we finish with seven special sessions in church with Fr. Burke for immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in spring of 10th grade. We will also do an in-depth study of the mass, and the Gospels using *From Mass to Mission: Understanding the Mass and its Significance for Our Christian Life* from Liturgy Training Publications.

6th/7th/8th grades: Tuesdays 7-8PM

Oct. 5	Jan. 4	March 15
Oct. 19	Jan. 11	March 22
Oct. 26	Jan. 18	March 29
Nov. 9	Feb. 1	April 5
Nov. 16	Feb. 8	
Nov. 30	Feb. 15	
Dec. 7	March 1	
Dec. 14	March 8	

9th /10th grades: Mondays 7-8PM

Oct. 4	Jan. 3	April 4 (last 9 th)
Oct. 18	Jan. 10	April 11 (10 th only)
Oct. 25	Feb. 7	April 18 (10 th only)
Nov. 8	Feb. 28	
Nov. 15	March 7	
Nov. 29	March 14	
Dec. 6	March 21	
Dec. 13	March 28	

Youth Ministry

Throughout the last 18 months, Youth Ministry has continued its fundraising efforts through our three main events, *Spring Flower Sale*, *Fall Mum Sale*, and *Christmas Wreath Sale*. We also continue to benefit from the generosity and efforts of the CLYNK program which financially supports our vision with your donations of 5 cent returnables through the use of the green bags available in the gathering space alcove. We are also holding our annual Mum Sale on September 11th and 12th in the parking lot. Mums are \$9 each or 3/\$25. All are locally grown by Hillard's Greenhouses. OLAYM continues to sponsor a child in Uganda with a monthly donation towards his education and development. Thank you for helping us continue the mission. We were also able to continue our support of the American Cancer Society through Relay For Life donations...thank you!

Now, hopefully it is time to return to gathering our youth together in service, faith and friendship! The Core Team of Youth and Adults will be gathering soon to make plans for the coming year. Please feel free to submit your ideas, or contact me if you are interested in being a part of our planning groups.

The National Catholic Youth Conference will take place this November in Indianapolis, and for the first time since 1999, a contingent from OLA will not be in attendance. I made the decision for us not to attend in-person, but we will be offering some sort of activity where we gather as a smaller community via live broadcast, and can still share some of the experience with others who will be there in person. Please watch for details as they are planned! Hopefully 2023 will be a different story for all of us!

Thank you for all your kindness and support throughout this last year and a half. We are looking forward to the many ways we hope to give back to all of you in the coming months and year ahead.

Rosemary Gavin



Please double-check all your information on the enclosed registration form. If anything has changed, please cross out the inaccurate information and write the corrected info down.



Please sign your registration form.



Please enclose your check made payable to ***Our Lady of the Assumption Church.***

\$60 for the first child, \$40 for the second child, \$100 cap per family. If payment cannot be made at this time, please note this on your registration form and we will make alternate arrangements. Please do not delay your registration. No one will be turned away who is unable to pay.



Please return everything in the enclosed envelope by September 1, 2021.