

Holy Spirit/Holy Trinity Faith Formation Program

September 7, 2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you all had a very fun-filled summer! It is hard to believe that another summer has come to a close and the kids are back to school already. Back to school means back to Faith Formation! Welcome to the 2022-2023 Faith Formation Year! We can't wait to see everyone again!

Below is some information to get you started:

Grades K-5 classes will begin on **Sunday, October 16th**. Class time is every **Sunday morning from 10:15 – 11:15 am** with **Mass** following at **11:30 am**. All classes are held in the school building at Holy Spirit Church in Gloversville. Please access the building through the second set of doors marked **Spirit Central** towards the back of the school building. We also have a Café that you are welcome to relax in while your child/children attend class each week. This is a great opportunity to get to know other parents and have some great discussions!

For students in **2nd grade**, receiving their **First Reconciliation** and **First Communion**; additional information and parent meetings are forth coming. Their class time will follow the Grades K-5 calendar; with additional dates for extra activities.

Grades 6-10 Classes will begin on **Sunday, October 16th**; with **grades 6th-8th meeting from 6:00–7:00pm** and **grades 9th & 10th from 7:15 to 8:15 pm**. These grades will meet at this time every Sunday. These classes also are held in the school building, at Holy Spirit Church, accessing through the doors marked Spirit Central. Additional information and calendar will be forth coming. If you have a child in both evening programs, you may send them for the full 2 hours, supervision is provided. They may utilize the Café to relax, socialize, read a book or do homework while waiting for their sibling.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) is a program that is offered during the 11:30 am Mass at Holy Spirit Church. We are blessed to have our First Communion Catechists lead this instruction. The children are led into the Adoration Chapel after opening prayer to hear the same scripture readings and Gospel reading that the adult attendees are hearing, but at a child's level. This gives them the opportunity to ask and answer questions, and have a better understanding of what takes place during the Mass. They re-join the rest of the congregation for the remainder of the Mass during the offertory. The children are offered an opportunity to bring forth the gifts. Please remember the Mass is an extremely important part of your child's faith formation as well as for your family's ongoing journey of faith. If you cannot attend Mass for any reason, your child may still come to Mass and sit with our First Communion Catechists or myself, **with your permission**, and you may pick them up after Mass at 12:30. We will be teaching your children the importance of attending Mass. You, as their parents, have the power to establish how important attending Mass is! Let's make it a priority and work together to fill the pews!

Events & Fundraisers Our Faith Formation program is a very active one. We offer many family events and several fundraisers throughout the year. Please look for these events on the calendar when you receive it.

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Grade level Masses This year we will be implementing grade level Masses. This means that about once a month, your child/children will not have a regular class, but go to Mass together as a class instead. At these Masses, the classes will sit together with their classmates and teachers and also be given the opportunity to participate in the Mass. These designated Masses will be on the calendar. Some Masses will be at Holy Spirit Church in Gloversville at the Sunday 11:30am Liturgy and some will be at Holy Trinity Church in Johnstown at the Sunday 10:00am Liturgy.

Registration. There will be a registration day on Sunday, October 2nd from 10:15-11:15am at Holy Spirit Church in Gloversville in the school building where classes will be held. Please stop in during that time to register your child/children and pick up a calendar for the year. If for some reason you cannot make it that day, please call me at 518-848-1986 and I can mail you the paperwork needed or email it to you. There is no longer a set fee for registration for your child/children to attend Faith Formation. However, if you choose to do so, there is a “free will” offering. You will be provided with an envelope at registration that your child can bring to class or place in the collection basket at any Mass throughout the Faith Formation year. Let God be your guide; this is an anonymous free will offering.

At the bottom of the registration form there is a place to indicate the best way to contact you. We use the Remind APP (text message or email notifications) and we find it extremely helpful to get a quick message out about weather cancellations, changes in the calendar or to remind you about an event. We also update our Parish website, www.holyspirit12078.org and put a status update out via our Facebook Page: Church of the Holy Spirit Faith Formation – like us and follow ups for those updates.

Blessing of the Backpacks Fr. Matt will be offering a “Blessing of the backpacks” at **Holy Spirit Church in Gloversville on Sunday, October 2nd at the 11:30am Mass after registration.** Fr. Matt will also be offering a “Blessing of the backpacks” on **Sunday, September 25th at Holy Trinity Church in Johnstown at the 10:00am Mass.** You may choose whichever Mass is the most convenient for you. Just bring your child/children to Mass and Fr. Matt will call them forward for a special blessing. This blessing will remind your children that God is with them each and every day!

Our entire Faith Formation Team of volunteers is looking forward to working with you in leading you and your children into a deeper relationship with God.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime with questions or concerns: 518-773-8590 (office); 518-848-1986 (texting available) or via email at holyspirit12078@gmail.com.

Many blessings,

Ann Simonson

Coordinator of Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

Holy Spirit Church & Holy Trinity Church