

July 1, 2020

Dear Parish Family,

What an eventful and “different” few months it has been. The milestones and events we traditionally look forward to in the spring were impacted greatly by our quarantine and the pandemic. Among those events are spiritual milestones we all joyfully anticipate, including First Communion and Confirmation. The beauty of our faith is that we know God is in control, that he loves us and is with us during our challenges and celebrations. We do not have all the answers, but we know those First Communions and Confirmations will happen and we will celebrate those joyful experiences with you.

We are in the process of planning our upcoming faith formation year. We are quite hopeful we will have a traditional program for our children and youth. We have pushed back the start date of our programs to Sept. 13, but otherwise hope to follow the calendar as scheduled

This letter contains very important information regarding our SSFC Religious Education and Youth Ministry programs as well as First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation sacramental preparation details. We are asking our families to register per our normal, on-line process. We will plan for our traditional programming while also planning for alternatives (on-line opportunities, smaller gatherings, etc.) if needed. Your information is VITAL for us to serve you in the best possible way.

Please take the time to read this information, even if your child attends Catholic school as some information does pertain to those young people.

### **Religious Education/Youth Ministry 2020– 2021**

RE/YM registration is due by Monday, August 31. Please register your child for our programs in a timely manner such that we can secure an adequate number of catechists, textbooks, supplies and materials for however our ministry offerings may look. Thank you for your generous support and cooperation!

Religious Education and Youth Ministry sessions for the 2020-2021 program year will begin Sunday, September 13. Specific class times are listed with the registration form.

**The registration is available via the following link:**

[www.tinyurl.com/ssfcREYM2021](http://www.tinyurl.com/ssfcREYM2021)

### **Sacramental Preparation**

First Reconciliation and First Communion Sacramental preparation is offered via our second grade religious education classes. Parishioners who attend second grade at our SSFC School Ministry will prepare during their school day and will also meet with our RE children for joint retreats and activities. Classes are offered for children and teens who are beyond second grade and have not yet received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and/or Eucharist. If your child is a third grader who needs to prepare for these Sacraments, contact Patricia McGill ASAP so we might determine the best plan for



them. This applies to school ministry students as well. Children in grades three through eight who desire to prepare for Baptism, Reconciliation and/or Eucharist should apply for the Bridges Class on the registration form. Bridges program classes will begin after Fall Break in October.

Teens age 13 through 18 and in grades; 8 - 12 are eligible to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parishioners who attend eighth grade at SSFC School will prepare during their school day. Confirmation candidates who do not attend SSFC School Ministry will meet with their age group between Masses on Sunday mornings, 10-11:10 am. School Ministry students are invited to attend at this time but it is not mandatory as their catechesis will come via their school day. ALL eighth grade Confirmation students are required to actively engage in weekly formation groups/classes, attend the Afternoon of Reflection and a Confirmation retreat, and complete at least five EPIC experiences (Expanded Participation in our Church). Confirmation students of High School age have several options for their formation. Once registered for the sacrament, please contact Monica Robinson (mrobinson@ss-fc.org) to set up a meeting to create a formation plan. Our 2021 Confirmation date is unknown at this time. However, a mandatory parent information meeting for all who have teens preparing for Confirmation will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Please save the date to your calendar!

We will ask our member RE/YM families with children in preschool-grade 8 for a moderate per child fee of \$25 toward the cost of faith formation to help with supplies. Our cost per student is actually close to \$100 per child and we are happy to have the resources to supplement the majority of these costs. The maximum cost per family will not exceed \$60. These fees are not intended to be a financial hardship or to keep your family from enjoying our programming. Please contact us if we can assist you.

Those who are not registered members of Saints Francis and Clare but wish for their child to be involved in our RE/YM programs are welcome, but will be charged a \$150 registration fee in order to cover their expenses.

Schedules for the upcoming RE/YM program year will be available in late August. We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our families. Please call the RE/YM office if you have any questions. Best wishes for an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

In Christ's Peace,

*Patricia McGill*

Patricia McGill  
Coordinator of Religious Education

*Monica Robinson*

Monica Robinson  
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

