

Holy Family Parish
P.O. Box 619
East Taunton, MA 02718

August 11, 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the summer. As so often happens the summer seems to be passing quickly and we will soon be back to our regular fall activities. As you know, when you had baptized your child or children, you made that beautiful promise of raising them in the practice of the faith. The primary way of fostering their faith is by supporting their living of the new covenant with Christ through receiving his Body and Blood in the Eucharist, daily prayer, and a joyful lived faith in the home. Furthermore, an important means to help foster their faith is learning what we believe as Catholics through catechesis and faith formation so they can understand what God asks of us. But to foster their faith one must always be seeking to grow in your faith, so please consider opportunities we will offer this fall to help you grow. If you find you are having struggles in your faith then please do not hesitate to contact me so we can talk.

I am writing you so you can begin to make some plans for faith formation classes. The schedule for Faith Formation is as follows:

- Classes will begin the weekend of Sept. 16/ 17, and conclude the weekend of April 28/ 29, 2018.
 - Saturday, 9:45-10:45a.m. Grades 1 and 2
 - Sunday, 10:15-11:15a.m. Kindergarten (optional) & Grades 3-6 (1st option)
 - Sunday, 11:45a.m.-12:45p.m. Grades 7-9
 - Monday, 4:40-5:30p.m. Grades 3-6 (2nd option)

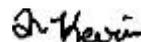
Furthermore, this year we are going to try a new optional experimental class for Grades 6. This class will meet each Sunday morning after the 10:30am Mass in the basement of the church. They will be learning the faith, but in a particular way they will focus on reflecting on the prayers, homily, and readings of the Mass that day, helping them to learn how to pray at Mass and hopefully get much more out of Mass. This experimental class would be only for children in Grade 6 whose parents would like to try this program. Those in Grade 6 that prefer the usual faith formation class, those classes will still be offered as listed above. The experimental class will be shorter (finishing at 12: 15pm) because the child would be attending the 10:30 Mass.

For those who are concerned about some conflicts a few times in the year with sports or other activities, it would be your responsibility to make time to go over the lesson with your child on the weeks they miss (and they will show their teacher the work completed the next time they come to class).

Also, those who have a child in grades 1-8, you can choose to teach your son or daughter at home (parents are the primary educators of their children and some parents have found home schooling helped them grow closer to their children, as well as grow in their own faith), but one must use the curriculum we are using. If one decides to go this route please contact Karen before September 1st so she can order extra teachers' manuals.

Lastly, please remember that as important as the classes are, they are never more important or equal to the weekly Sunday celebration of the Mass. Sadly many are not making the effort God calls us to keep the third commandment and this has many long-term effects on the faith of those not attending Mass faithfully. Please always make this the top priority when it comes to fostering the faith of your children (and your personal faith as well).

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Kevin Cook