



August 2016

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 25 and ending April 30 and will meet each Sunday, except for holiday weekends. See the back of the Faith Formation calendar. Sunday School will be held in school classroom #8 at the top of the steps.

Wednesday Evenings (Grades 1-9)

Faith Formation sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:15pm-7:30pm beginning on September 28 and ending April 26. 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

Enclosed with this letter you will find the necessary registration forms for Faith Formation for Sunday School (Ages 3-5) and grades 1-9. **Please complete the forms and return them as soon as possible or by September 14.** Forms to complete and return are:

1. Green Faith Formation Registration Form (front side)
Media Waiver Form (back side)
2. White Registration Fee Form

Faith Formation Calendar

Enclosed with this letter is the 2016-2017 Faith Formation Calendar. This calendar is for you to keep as 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 9, Fish Fry's, the Luck of the Irish event and much more.

December 10 – The Nativity Story

All children and youth in Sunday School and Grades 1-9 will be invited to participate in the telling of the Nativity Story on Saturday, December 10, at 7:00pm. We will be practicing on November 30 and December 7 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 5:00-7:00pm that evening. Help is welcome with the dinner, music and directing the children if you are interested!

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.

September 24 – Pot Luck Picnic & Game Night

All are invited to a Winona Catholic Community Picnic and Game Night that will be held here at St. Mary's in the backyard. Eating utensils and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. Come for Mass and stay for a few hours or join us when you can.

4:30pm – Mass

5:30pm – Pot Luck Picnic

6:00pm – Vacation Bible School (Barnyard Roundup) Sharing

We will sing some songs from VBS, watch one of the Storytelling Skits,
and share some reflections.

6:30pm – Games and Socializing

This is one of several upcoming events that will be planned by the newly formed Youth Commission for the Winona Catholic Community. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this commission that plans to meet quarterly to vision about youth offerings for our parishes.

Grades 1-9: Opening Session for Wednesday nights

September 28 - All of the students in grades 1-9 and their parents are asked to attend the opening night and should meet in the church at **6:00pm for the Opening Mass**, which will be followed by a **pot luck supper** in Marian Hall. Eating utensils and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

Catechists and helpers are needed at several age levels 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 452-5656 or email me at juwalch@wacs1.org.

In Christ's Peace,

Julie Walch
Director of Faith Formation

Fr. Jim Berning
Pastor