

Faith Formation 2022-2023

One-In-Faith 4: St. Andrew's, St. John's, St. Michael's, St. Mary's

## **Dear 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and families,**

Thank you for choosing to participate in faith formation this year – we are blessed to have you with us!

The focus of our faith formation program for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders is the Apostles Creed and Christian/Catholic Ethics (we do one topic one year, and the other topic the other year).

For the first half of the year, the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> graders will have various service projects and prayer experiences.

During the second half of the year, the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> graders will have their classes with Renee Goerdts (one of our volunteer teachers) as well as a number of guest speakers.

For more information about the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade year, see the **Frequently Asked Questions and the Calendar below!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us! Information about faith formation is also posted on the One in Faith parishes website ([www.oneinfaith.org](http://www.oneinfaith.org)) and on the Faith Formation Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OneInFaithUnoEnFeMN/>).

Thank you for being a part of our community – we look forward to getting to know your family a little bit better this year!

Blessings,

Juliann Heller, Interim Director of Faith Formation [faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com) or message through the Remind App)

Rita Meyer, part-time Faith Formation Adm. Asst. [faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com](mailto:faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com) or text/call at 320 290-5687

Renee Goerdts, teacher

Blanca Barragan, part-time Faith Formation Asst./Hispanic Ministry [stmarys@stmarysofmelrose.com](mailto:stmarys@stmarysofmelrose.com) (320) 256-4207

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q:** Why don't the students have classroom sessions every Wednesday throughout the whole year? Why does the faith formation program devote as much time as it does to activities like prayer, service projects, and fun activities?

**A:** There is a "theological" (religious) reason for why our faith formation program tries to keep a mix of different kinds of activities: some academic/classroom time, some service opportunities, some prayer experiences, and some activities that are simply for fun, to help build community. We have this mix because as Catholics we believe that we find God in all those areas of our lives – God is present when we study, when we serve others, when we pray, and when we find joy in each other's company.

There are also some "pedagogical" (teaching) reasons for the mix of activities. Everyone learns in different ways. Some students will learn more about God through classroom work, some better through service, etc. In addition, research shows that people learn better when they enjoy what they are doing (or at least when they don't dread it!). So, the more we can do to make faith formation enjoyable (by mixing things up!), the better our youth will learn.

**Q:** What will this mix of activities look like in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade?

**A:** In 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade, there will be a number of sessions of classroom study, as well as a number of other evenings for prayer, service, and fun. We would encourage you to talk with your 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grader about how all these different elements are essential ways to deepen their relationship with God and neighbor. It is just as important for them to come to a fun night or a prayer night as it is for them to show up for a class night.

**Q:** Why are parents/guardians asked to attend some faith formation events?

**A:** Throughout our faith formation program, we have been trying to do a better job of involving adults. There are a number of reasons for this effort: 1) By involving parents in their children's faith formation, we are better enabling them to fulfill their baptismal promise, to raise their child to know and love God, 2) By involving adults in faith formation, we are setting a good example for our youth – showing them that a person's faith formation doesn't stop after the Sacrament of Confirmation, 3) We are enabling youth and adults to learn from each other – we all have different stories and different gifts and we'd like to help people to share them a bit with each other.

**Q:** What does this parent/guardian involvement look like in 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade?

**A:** For the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade classroom sessions, we ask that one parent/guardian attend at least half of the sessions. If it is impossible for a parent/guardian to attend, due to work schedules or childcare issues, please just let us know!

**Q:** Why is the book that we use in 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade the same as the book they use in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class?

**A:** The simple answer is that this book contains too much material to cover in one year, so we split it into 3 years. We cover some of the chapters in 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade and then your student will hold onto that book and will cover other chapters in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. This does NOT mean that Confirmation class now is starting in 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade. It just means that those 3 grades use the same book.

## Calendar for grades 9/10 for 2022-2023

\*all events will be at St. Mary's in Melrose unless otherwise noted

\*all events will be on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:30 unless otherwise noted

### Fall Semester (mostly prayer experiences and service projects)

8/31 Orientation night for all Faith Formation families

9/7 Service Project: make invitations for All Souls liturgy, for parishioners who have lost a loved one; make donation "ornaments" for Food Shelf tree

SUNDAY 9/18 4:00 PM (optional) All students grades 7-12 and their families are invited to join the other Faith Formation families at a Mass at **Cheryl Hellermann's barn** (bonfire afterwards: bring your own hot dogs & beverages!)

SUNDAY 9/25 NET retreat for 10<sup>th</sup> graders (and 11<sup>th</sup> graders) 10:00-4:00 **NEW MUNICH** (Immaculate Conception)

10/16 OR 10/23 Service projects:

EITHER help with Potato Pancake supper in **MEIRE GROVE** (St. John's) on SUNDAY 10/16 OR

Help with Bingo in **MELROSE** (St. Mary's) on SUNDAY 10/23 (note – this is MEA weekend)

11/2 Service project and prayer: All Souls liturgy for parishioners who have lost a loved one **GREENWALD** (St. Andrew's)

12/14 Service project & prayer: bring snacks/baked goods for Advent Reconciliation liturgies

### Spring Semester (mostly classes)

1/25 Class

TUESDAY 2/21 Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday celebration - stop by St. Mary's church before school (7:30-8:00 AM) to pick up a doughnut!

2/22 Ash Wednesday

Date of Confirmation Mass (TBD): Service project and prayer: help with Confirmation liturgy OR Lent Reconciliation Liturgies

3/8 Class + Stations of the cross

3/15 Class + Stations of the Cross

3/22 Service project and prayer: help with Confirmation liturgy OR Lent Reconciliation Liturgies

3/29 Class + Stations of the Cross

4/19 Class

4/26 Class