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Saint Gabriel Parish

August 23, 2024

Dear Parish Family:

It is with much joy that we reach out to you this summer to talk about faith as a family. As a parishioner of St. Gabriel, we invite you to explore and participate in formation opportunities that will foster faith. What is it to have faith? How many ways can faith be expressed? How do we grow in relationship with God? Obviously daily prayer and attending weekly mass are essential ways to practice our faith; however, further formation at all ages helps us to grow in understanding and discern more fully our response to God's call.

In our parish there are faith formation opportunities beginning at kindergarten. For our children to become fully initiated into our Catholic faith, first they are welcomed in Baptism, and preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism is a formation opportunity for parents. Weekly Faith Formation classes are offered for Grades 1-5 beginning each fall through spring. Additionally, there are dedicated formation opportunities to prepare families to celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Middle School and High School students have the opportunity to become a part of the Parish Youth Ministry program where they can continue to learn about our faith and reflect on the teachings of the church and participate in service projects and activities while deepening their relationship with Christ. Both Faith Formation and Youth Ministry gather on Sundays. Adults are welcome to take advantage of many events and programs offered throughout the year such as bible study, adult faith night, family faith night, Advent and Lent special activities, etc.

Signup sheets for families to register children to participate beginning this fall are at the church entrances, online, and available at the Parish Office. Additionally, a preview of the parish formation offerings for the coming year are included on the back of this letter so you can set aside time on calendars now to prioritize your response to God's call.

Please prayerfully consider making faith formation a priority and sign up your children as soon as possible as well as hold dates on your calendar. The signup forms can be dropped in the collection basket at mass, or turned in to the parish office in person, emailed, or mailed.

In peace,

St. Gabriel Education Commission