

Dear Parents/Guardians,

WELCOME BACK!

"Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith."

Pope Francis World Meeting of Families: Philadelphia 2015

The church views the role of parents in the spiritual formation of their children as both a privilege and an obligation. The religious formation we offer is meant to support the parents in their responsibility as the first educators of faith. We are happy to assist you as the primary educator of your child, but it does require many faithful volunteers to make it a fruitful experience. Thank you for your interest in our Religious Formation and Youth Discipleship & Evangelization Ministries.

***RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAM—K-8th Grades**

Wednesday nights: (First session Sept 13th in FCMC)

6:00pm—Martha's Kitchen—all are welcome!

7:00-8:00pm (K-5th grades)

7:00-8:30pm (6-8th grades)

***YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP & EVANGELIZATION—9th-12th Grades**

Martha's Kitchen @ 6:00pm

First Large Group for all HS youth—Wed. Sept 13th @ 7:00pm in FCMC.

Youth Discipleship & Evangelization Groups for all HS youth—Wednesdays 7:00-8:30pm

PROCEDURES & GENERAL INFORMATION: (K-8th)

Arrival

Please enter through the north door to the classrooms. Classes will begin at 7:00pm. Please be on time so we can finish on time. If you are tardy please report to the office. An adult will be on duty in the hallway at 6:45pm. We encourage K-2nd grades to please bring a book bag for papers and notes.

Dismissal

A parent or older sibling will need to pick-up their (K-2nd) child from the classrooms. A bell will be used for dismissal at 8pm for K-5th & at 8:30pm for 6th-8th. Students are asked to leave from the north doors. Parents, please make arrangements for a younger child if they are waiting for an older sibling. Thanks.

Communication

Communication is the key to a successful program. Our ultimate goal is to communicate with you through e-mail. Please fill out your e-mail address on the registration sheet. If you do not have an e-mail address please write this on your form. A paper copy will be sent home with your child, or it will be mailed through the post office. Please watch the parish bulletin for upcoming information or go our parish website www.stleotyndall.com to get the latest news and program forms.

Cancellations

During the winter months, announcements will be given during school hours if there is an early school cancellation due to bad weather. An email will be sent out to notify parents if sessions are cancelled. If you are unsure, please call 589-3504 before you travel into town.

Absences

If you know your child/youth will be absent from class please call the parish center at 589-3504, e-mail joLynnweber@yahoo.com, text JoLynn @ 660-7008, or send a note with an older/younger sibling.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken on the scheduled session days. A phone call will be made to parents if their child has missed three consecutive Wednesdays. Student Masses, Ash Wednesday Mass, and Holy day Masses on Wednesdays are considered spiritual formation and attendance will be taken. Students please report to office for attendance. Perfect Attendance Awards will be given out at the end of the year.

Martha's Kitchen

Supper meals will continue to be offered through Martha's Kitchen this year. The kitchen will be open from 6:00-6:45pm in the FCMC beginning on **Sept 13th**. We encourage volunteer catechists and their families, along with the youth to take advantage of this wonderful service. A sign-up sheet will be used for the next week's meal.

Safe Environment Youth Training

In accordance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and the Sexual Misconduct of Sioux Falls, youth who are enrolled in a Catholic school or parish's religious education program receive annual, age-appropriate awareness training on how to keep them safe and report suspected abuse. Awareness training is typically presented by the classroom teacher, pastor, or local safe environment coordinator who has completed the safe environment program for adults. Training for K-8th youth will take place on Sept 27th & training for 9-12th will be on Nov 15th. Please feel free to contact our parish office if you have questions or concerns about your child participating in this program. If you would like to opt your child(ren) out of this awareness training, a form will need to be filled out and returned to the RE office before the scheduled training date.

Wednesday Family Fun Night: Mass @ 6:30pm, Supper & Games—K-12th Grades

Student Masses will be on Wednesday night this year. We are promoting a Family Fun Night which will include Mass, supper, and games. The youth will be involved in the ministries of the Mass, serving supper, and leading the games. All youth are asked to please report to their classrooms by 6:15pm for attendance. All families are encouraged to attend and enjoy family fun night with their youth. Please join us on **Wed. Oct 18th & Wed. April 4th**. No Martha's Kitchen @ 6pm. Supper will be served after Mass. Come out for some family fun! Save these dates!

K-5th X-mas Program & High School Pancake Brunch/Bake Sale

The K-5th X-mas Program is scheduled on Sunday, Dec 10th @ 10:30am at St. Leo's Church. The high school youth will be serving a Pancake Brunch and Bake Sale that morning beginning at 9am to 1pm. Please enjoy a delicious brunch with your parish family and support the youth. Proceeds will go towards summer events.

INFORMATION 9th-12th grades

****CONFIRMATION MEETING—Wed. Sept 6th @ 6:30pm**

The sacrament of Confirmation will be offered to 9th & 10th grade students this year and preparation will begin in September. An orientation meeting for the Confirmation candidates and their parents is scheduled on Wed. Sept 6th at 6:30pm in the FCMC. All parents and candidates are asked to please attend this informative meeting. Pizza and pop will be offered at 6:15pm. The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated with 3 area parishes and will be at St. Wenceslaus in Tabor on Sunday, Feb 11, 2018 @ 3pm.

****PARENT & 8th-12th YOUTH FUNDRAISING MEETING—Wed. Sept 6th @ 7:30pm**

Parents and youth in 8th-12th grades are asked to attend this short meeting on Wed Sept 6th @ 7:30pm in the FCMC to brainstorm ideas and set dates for fundraising events. Some dates & events have been set-up already, but we will need your verification on additional ideas & dates that will work for most everyone. With a positive response to our summer youth conference and diocesan discipleship camp this summer, we plan on moving forward with fundraising for a future Steubenville youth conference or a Catholic Heart Work Camp in June 2018. The fee for both of these events will roughly cost between \$350-375. We ask that youth take advantage of all the fundraising opportunities that are being offered. Scholarship money will also be available for any high school youth.

Scheduled Fundraisers

****Sunday, Dec 10, 2017—Pancake Brunch & Bake Sale—9am-1pm**

****Sunday Morning Breakfast**—The youth have the opportunity to serve our parish guests on one of these scheduled **Sundays: Sept 24, Oct 29, Nov 26, Jan 28, Feb 25, and March 25th**. A sign-up sheet will be passed around for those who want to participate in this fundraiser. Please bring a dozen rolls/breakfast pastries, serve our guests, and clean up. Be ready to serve after 8:30am Mass at St. Leo's church.

****KC Fish Fry**—Fish Fries are on **Fri Nov 17, 2017, Fri Feb 16, 2018 & Fri March 23, 2018—5-7pm**

****SL Altar Society Soup Kitchen**—Jan 21, 2018

We are very excited to begin a new year of ministry and to continue the mission that Jesus passed down to the apostles and their successors "*Go and make disciples of all nations...*"

Sincerely in Christ,