

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 Discipleship Focused Youth Ministries.

*****First religious formation for K-12th will begin on Wed Sept 2nd with supper and fellowship beginning @ 6:30pm in the FCMC. All families are encouraged to attend. Please bring your parental forms this evening.***

RELIGIOUS FORMATION (K-7th) DISCIPLESHIP FOCUSED YOUTH MINISTRY (8-12TH)

Wednesday nights:

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

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

6:45-8:00pm (6-7th grades)

6:45-8:15pm (8-12th grades)

PROCEDURES & GENERAL INFORMATION:

****Covid-19 Guidelines**

We will follow the school’s guidelines pertaining to covid-19 as much as possible. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be provided in each classroom. We will encourage distancing when appropriate. Masks are optional but not mandatory. If you have any additional concerns, please contact Fr Joe.

Arrival

Please enter through the north door to the classrooms. Sessions will begin at 6:45/7:00pm. Please be on time so we can finish on time. We encourage K-2nd grades to please bring a book bag for papers and notes.

Dismissal

A bell will be used for dismissal at 8pm for K-7th and 8:15pm for 8-12th. A parent or older sibling will need to pick-up their (K-2nd) child from the classrooms. Students are asked to leave from the north doors. Children waiting for an older sibling will need to wait in the RE office until the 8:15 dismissal bell.

Communication

Communication will be done through email, so please check it often. A monthly newsletter will be sent out for the most updated information. Please fill out your email address on your registration form. If you do not have an e-mail address, please let us know. Watch the parish bulletin for upcoming information or go to our parish website www.stleotyndall.com to get the latest news and program forms.

Cancellations

During the winter months, announcements will be made during school hours if there is a cancellation due to bad weather. If school is dismissed early because of bad weather, there will be no religious formation. 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 their session, please call the parish center at 589-3504, Email cueckers@yahoo.com, camille.sykora@gmail.com, OR send a note with an older/younger sibling.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken on the scheduled session days. Student Masses, Ash Wednesday Mass, and Holy Day Masses on Wednesdays are considered spiritual formation and attendance will be taken. 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 9th**. 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-12th will take place on Sept 9th. Please feel free to contact our parish office if you have questions or concerns about your child participating in this training. 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.

Electronic Communication Parent Permission Form

Our diocese has implemented a policy providing guidelines for the use of Electronic Communications between adult and youth. The goal of these guidelines is to provide a safe environment for our children, to teach our children safe procedures when using electronic communication devices, and to protect the reputations of employees/volunteers and the Catholic Church. St Leo/Vincent parishes are asking for parent permission to communicate with your child, (13yrs+ that have a phone) about various program content, prayer reminders, and activities scheduled for the year using electronic methods, such as email or texting.

Wednesday Family Fun Night—K-12th Grades **All families are encouraged to come.******

****Wed Sept 2, 2020**—Opening Night @ 6:30-8pm—supper in the FCMC

****Wed Oct 28, 2020**—All Saints Family Night @ 6:30-8pm—(organized by 8-12th grades)

****Wed Feb 10, 2021**—Family Fun Night/Student Mass @ 6:30-8pm

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

The K-5th X-mas Program is scheduled on Sunday, Dec 13th @ 10:30am at St. Leo's Church. The 8th-12th grade youth will be serving a Pancake Brunch and will be hosting a Bake Sale that morning from 9am to 1pm. Proceeds will go towards any church events scheduled throughout the year or summer.

Fundraising INFORMATION for 8th-12th grades

8th-12th YOUTH FUNDRAISING Events

Our parish offers opportunities for the youth to fundraise for any church event such as the Steubenville youth conference, Discipleship camp, Search weekend, Diocesan events, or Mission trips. Summer events usually cost between \$350-400. The scheduled opportunities are listed below. Other fundraisers will be set-up throughout the year.

Scheduled Fundraisers

High School Fall Bingo Fundraiser--TBA

****Sunday, Dec 13, 2020—Pancake Brunch & Bake Sale—9am-1pm**

****Sunday Morning Breakfast—Sept 27, 2020; Oct 25, 2020; Nov 25, 2020;**

The youth can serve our parish guests on one of these scheduled Sundays. 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.

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,

Rev. Joseph Forcelle, Pastor
Cola Uecker—DFYM 8th-12th
Camille Sykora—DRE K-7th