

June, 2018

Dear Families and Parishioners,

As you may know, Bishop Libasci has called for an impactful change in the Diocese of Manchester. He has asked all parishes in New Hampshire to restore the reception of the sacraments of initiation to their original order: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist. This change will emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation to be received as a free gift, rather than an earned reward or graduation ceremony. The sacramental grace received in Confirmation is meant to fuel our lifelong journey of faith.

For St. Peter parish, the transition of the Confirmation age will affect the faith formation programs for 2018-2020. We will begin the transition this upcoming Fall 2018 by preparing 3rd and 4th grade students, as well as 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students, for the sacrament of Confirmation to be received in the Spring of 2019. Students in the 5th, 6th, and 7th grades will be receiving Confirmation during the next academic year 2019-20. Students in the 2nd Grade will still be receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation in the Spring of 2019, but not first Eucharist.

Starting in the Fall of 2019, 3rd grade students will prepare to receive first Eucharist in the same celebration as Confirmation in Spring 2020. Receiving first Eucharist after Confirmation in the 3rd grade will emphasize the importance of the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Catholic faith. It is the final and ongoing gift of our initiation into the Catholic Church.

In addition to a smooth transition, our goals include integrating a ministry approach to our faith formation programs. This year the parish will begin using a family faith formation program called *A Family of Faith*. We chose this program to encourage learning the faith as a family, and to more easily fit a busy lifestyle. We will also be utilizing middle school (*Edge*) and high school (*Life Teen*) programs from *Life Teen Ministries* for youth ministry faith formation. *Life Teen Ministries* is a Christocentric ministry built on community, service, and worship among peers for teens and tweens. Both family faith formation and youth ministry are intergenerational, which means it involves community members of all ages to grow in faith together. Both ministries will encourage greater community involvement and commitment to living an authentic Catholic faith.

Our hope is to redefine our perspective of faith formation by switching from a classroom model to this intergenerational ministry approach. Religious education used to be rote memorization in a classroom. Our relationship with Jesus Christ should be organic. Far more often we encounter Christ in the Sacraments, among our loved ones, and within a community of faith. The Catechism is just as important and will be present in the new faith formation programs, but our focus will be on living the faith and learning it along the way.

For more details about the transition of the sacraments, as well as the ministry programs, please see the reverse side of this letter. For more information concerning Bishop Libasci's vision for the Diocese of Manchester, please visit the diocesan website: www.catholicnh.org. For any further questions, concerns, feedback, or suggestions, feel free to contact the Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry: Sophia Dytewski.

God Bless!

Fr. Michael Gendron



Sophia Dytewski



Sacrament Preparation

- **2nd Grade Reconciliation: March 9th, 2019**
 - Attend Family Faith Formation
 - Complete *Encounter with Christ: Reconciliation* at-home work book (6 chapters)
 - Sacrament prep orientation: October 16th, @ 7pm
 - Reconciliation Parent Meeting: January 29th, @ 7pm
- **3rd-4th Grade Confirmation: Spring 2019***
 - Attend Family Faith Formation
 - Complete *Encounter with Christ: Confirmation* at-home work book (6 chapters)
 - Sacrament prep orientation: October 16th, @ 7pm
 - Confirmation Parent Meeting: January 29th, @ 7pm
- **8th, 9th, & 10th Grade Confirmation: Spring 2019***
 - Attend *Edge* (8th Grade) or *Life Teen* (9th-10th Grade) youth ministry programs: twice a month.
- **5th, 6th, & 7th Grade Confirmation: Spring 2020***
 - 5th Grade: Attend Family Faith Formation
 - 6th-7th Grade: Attend *Edge* Youth Ministry programs: twice a month.

**We are currently waiting for the Diocese to inform us when these Confirmation celebrations will be scheduled.*

A Family of Faith: Grades K-5

- *A Family of Faith* is best utilized as a learning program for younger grades (K-5), and a conversation generator for older grades (6-12, or young adult).
- **At Home:** The program is meant to be *flexible* with your schedule. Utilize it as it works for you! Along with your parent guide book and family activity book, you will receive resources at the Parent Nights and via email every month to help you and your family use the program.
- **Parent Nights:** First Tuesdays of the month (unless otherwise noted). **Approx. 90 minutes**
 - Open to all parishioners, parent nights focus on the topic of the month. Its goals are to equip parents with resources to help teach their kids at home, and to provide an opportunity for parishioners to learn more about the Catholic Faith and teachings. There will be a recording available online after the meeting date for parents or parishioners who are unable to make it.
- **Community Gatherings:** Third Saturdays after the 4:00 PM Mass (unless otherwise noted) **Approx. 90m**
 - Once-a-month potlucks open to all families in the community. Gatherings will include activities for the kids and an opportunity to review the month's topic. Families enrolled in the program are expected to attend.

Life Teen Ministries: *Edge* (grades 6-8) *Life Teen* (grades 9-12)

- **The goal of Life Teen Ministries** is to create an atmosphere of discovery: teens discover Jesus through one another, relevant resources, worship, community, and service. Life Teen Ministries always uses resources that are up-to-date and current with our fast-evolving culture. Worship, community, and service are core pillars of the programs and are integrated throughout the year.
- **When:** *Edge* and *Life Teen* will take place on alternating Thursday evenings at 7pm-8:30pm. Dates are subject to align with school vacation calendar. **Approx. 90 minutes**
- **Format:** Gather, proclaim, break, and send are the four main components of a meeting. First, we gather for a meal and an opening activity, video, or another engaging experience. We then have a session that discusses the Catholic theme of the night. After the proclaim, we break into small groups to go a little deeper in understanding what we just learned. Finally, we close with the intention of living out our encounter with Christ.