

Dear Faith Formation families,

As previously announced, we no longer have the benefit and blessing of Faith Formation Coordinators overseeing Grades 1-10. Because of this, our Faith Formation Program will be significantly different this year.

In developing this year's program, **we've listened to parents' concerns** that have been expressed over the past year. We know that most parents do not want virtual learning, want fewer classes and we know that parents would like user-friendly, engaging textbooks.

In response to your concerns, we will be using a **NEW textbook "Finding God" for grades 1-8 for homeschooling in addition to periodically scheduled in-person gatherings and activities. Weekly classes will not be held. Parents will be the primary teachers, supported by grade level leaders.**

**Grades 2, 9/10: (First Holy Communion/Confirmation):** This program will be overseen by *volunteer* leaders in conjunction with Frs. Devine and Giombetti. Parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be given a textbook for homeschooling. Additionally, schedule of in-person programs and expectations for Grades 2, 9/10 will be distributed at the Parent Meetings (see below). As a reminder, Catholic school students in grades 2 & 10 are required to participate fully in the program.

**Grade 1, 3-8:** Registered parents/students in these grades will be given a textbook for homeschooling and the names of grade level leaders. Periodic in-person grade appropriate activities will be overseen by volunteer leaders.

Because of the changes, I know that there will be questions. The following schedule designates the different grade level mandatory meeting for parents. At the meeting we will explain the role of the grade level leaders, distribute textbooks & schedules, and provide direction and support.

**The Faith Formation Program will be from October 18<sup>th</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

1) In order to plan for the program, we need all parents to register their child ASAP. **Registration will begin Sunday, August 1st.** Registration fee will be paid when you register via *We Share* at <https://st-thomasaquinas.weshareonline.org/>. The fee this year has been adjusted.

2) All parents registering their child(ren) to participate in this program will be expected to be at one/more of the following meetings in order for your child to be enrolled. Parent Meetings will take place in the Parish Center Gym.

**Grade 2:** Monday, October 4, @ 7 p.m

**Grades 9/10:** Sunday, October 17, @ 6 p.m.

**Grades 1-6:** Monday, October 18, @ 7 p.m.

**Grades 7-8:** Wednesday, October 13, @ 7 p.m.

During this transition year and until we have a coordinator, we ask parents to be **understanding and patient. Thank you for your support. For any specific questions about this year's Faith Formation Program, you can leave a voicemail at (508) 697-3652. We will return your call as soon as we can.**

- Fr. Bill