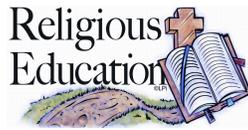


2019 – 2020 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE



New Faith Formation material has been introduced to students in Grades K-8. Students will learn from the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies Program.

“Each child’s lesson is based on the Gospel the Church proclaims on Sunday. Lessons connect the Gospel to the children’s lives and to the doctrine that springs from the Gospel message. Thirty-two doctrinal themes repeat each year. The Activity Books and the Catechism handbooks – *What the Church Believes and Teaches* – correlate to those themes. This liturgical catechesis keeps students and their families closely connected to the liturgical cycles of the Church year, while providing thorough instruction in the faith.” As in past years, catechists use crafts and various media to engage the students.



We are blessed to have the following catechists helping with the faith formation of our children: Jan Peters, Roma Wilk, Agnes Olbrys, Mary Wroblewski, Trudy Dziok, Elizabeth Skwira, Diane Dubreiul, Brother Vincent Vivian, OFM Conv, Donna Skwira and Sister Agnes Negru, FMSA.

Classes for Grades K-8 began on September 14th when a Parent orientation session was also presented by Fr. Joseph Bayne, OFM Conv., Pastor and Sister M. Andrea Ciszewski, FSSJ, Coordinator. Parents were reminded of the importance of their faith formation role: to ensure regular family prayer, attendance at Mass and a review the information taught in the weekly class.

On October 26th and 28th, Father Joseph Bayne led a session on the Rite of Reconciliation for Parents of students in the St. Stanislaus School and Religious Education Program who are preparing for the reception of the sacrament in 2020.

The Diocese of Springfield has introduced a new Protection of Children/Youth Program entitled Circle of Grace. This program will be implemented in all grades starting in 2020. A training program was held for school principals and religious education coordinators. These individuals will then train others to assist in offering the program.





On Sunday, October 27th, Bishop Mitchell Rozanski confirmed 25 of our students at the Noon Mass. These students completed a two-year study program, hours of community service (Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy), and an essay on the saints whose name they selected. We congratulate them and encourage them to continue to attend and to actively participate in parish life.

A Thematic Program is being offered to Grade 9 and 10 students who are preparing for the reception of Confirmation. The sites of these classes alternate between the school and church, depending upon the topic for that specific session. An Orientation session for parents and students was held in the Basilica on September 25th. During that session students and parents signed the Inscription form that identifies the expectations of members of these classes.

As of this date, students have attended the Transitus of St. Francis Service and classes on the Sacrament of Baptism, the Mass and the Eucharist, and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Friars Joseph Bayne, Paul Miskiewicz, Vincent Vivian, Nicholas Spano and Deacon Joe Peters have assisted with the presentation. We are grateful for the continuing presence and service of catechists Karen Ford, Michael Pray and Michael Johnston.