

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Parishes of Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph's

Our
Lady
of
Grace

Immaculate
Conception



Saint
Joseph's

Questions about our 2021-2022 Faith Formation and Youth Ministries Program should be directed to Christine Goss
christinegoss@icglenville.com or (518) 399-9203

August 2021

Dear Families of Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph's Communities:

We are excited to share with you the plan for our new tri-parish Faith Formation and Youth Ministries program. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and insights through our survey (we received nearly 150 family responses)! We carefully reviewed all of the comments, met with longtime catechists, and talked with parents and youth in all three parishes before finalizing our plan! We understand that change is hard – but change can also be exciting, leading to new possibilities and growth. We hope that with a bit of patience and a lot of grace, we can all come together to see what God has in store for our communities.

There is a lot of information within this mailing. We tried very hard to convey all the necessary details but encourage you to regularly check the Faith Formation and Youth Ministries web pages for the most up to date information.

HOW TO SIGN UP: All families will need to use the enclosed enrollment form to register for the upcoming year. We are not utilizing pre-printed forms because we need to ensure that all the data we have on file is current and accurate. Please be sure to answer all the questions and print clearly. If you need additional space to provide the necessary information or are enrolling more than three children, please staple the extra sheet to the enrollment form.

WHEN TO SIGN UP: We will begin sign-ups with in-person enrollment on Sunday, September 12th from 9am – 12pm in the Parish Hall at Immaculate Conception. Please enter through the main doors of the parish center. The door to the Hall that leads directly to the parking lot will be exit only. In-person sign-ups will continue on Monday, September 13th from 8am – 10am and from 6pm – 8pm. We encourage everyone to come with their form completed, payment ready and 1st and 2nd choice for gathered sessions. If you prefer, you can mail in or drop off your enrollment forms, however mailed in forms will not be processed until after in-person sign ups.

PROGRAM OPTIONS: Please see the enclosed information explaining the program overview for Faith Formation (Pre-K – 5th Grade) and Youth Ministries (6th – 12th Grade). If you have questions prior to enrollment, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please note – space in all sessions is limited and will be filled as enrollment forms are received.

PROGRAM FEES: Fees for 2021-2022 are:

One (1) child \$65 Two (2) children \$125 Three (3) or more \$175

We are only able to accept cash or check for program fees which are due at the time of enrollment. Checks should be payable to “Immaculate Conception Church”. If the program fee represents a financial hardship for your family, please contact Christine Goss.

Additional information on reverse

COVID-19 CONCERNS: We are committed to gathering in-person for the upcoming year while taking all necessary precautions to safeguard the health and safety of our children, youth and volunteers. We will follow all CDC and Diocesan protocols relative to Covid-19 guidelines. As we have all learned over the past 18 months information changes quickly. We feel confident we can adapt as needed to any changes that occur throughout the year. Please know that we are limiting group sizes to ensure adequate spacing and recognize that masks may be required. Additional guidelines will be shared via email prior to the start of sessions.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES: If you are enrolling a child for the first time (has not previously participated in formation through one of our parishes) a copy of the child's baptismal certificate is required at enrollment.

CONNECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO THEIR HOME PARISHES: Although it has been decided that gathered sessions will be held at Immaculate Conception, we recognize the importance of keeping children, youth and families connected to their home parishes. We continue to brainstorm creative ways to do so and are open to your suggestions. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have an idea to share.

SAVE THE DATES: Join us as we grow together in building community among our parishes. Additional details will be available online and in the bulletin as each event approaches

Sunday, September 26th – Faith Formation Kick-Off, Backpack Blessing and more
Sunday, October 31st – Trunk or Treat

OUR NEW STAFF: We hope that you will join us in welcoming Caitie Lashbrooks (Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries), Sarah Stygles (Coordinator for Family and Elementary Faith Formation) and Maria Yorkshire (Administrative Assistant) to our combined staff. Feel free to stop by the Parish Center during office hours to say hello! Email addresses and phone extensions will be available soon, please check our parish websites for details.

We know that the year ahead will be different but we are confident that inspired by the Holy Spirit we can come together to provide meaningful opportunities for children, youth and families in our parish communities to grow in faith, to deeper relationships with Christ and in greater service to one another and our surrounding community. We look forward to partnering with your family on this journey!

On behalf of Fr. Jerry, our Parish Trustees and the Evangelization and Catechesis team, we ask for your prayers and offer you ours.

Christine Goss
Director of Evangelization and Catechesis