

EASTSIDE PARISHES

Saint Michael PARISH CHURCH OF THE Resurrection

FAITH FORMATION 2024-25

August 2024

Dear Parents of 9th and 10th Graders,

I'm writing to share news of some significant and beneficial changes for 9th and 10th graders in our Faith Formation and Confirmation Preparation programs. Here is an overview of what will unfold in a few weeks:

- Young people from our parishes will be coming together for formation with those from St. Anne Parish. As you know, I am pastor St. Anne and Eastside Parishes and this allows a sharing of volunteers and other resources. Many of our young people already know each other from school and other activities. Why not grow together in faith as well?
- A shared program will offer a larger and more dynamic group. Our parishes have shared the celebration of Confirmation for several years, and now we'll prepare for the sacrament together as well. Deacon John McDonnell will be among our parishioners coordinating this program.
- The most significant change for our parishes is that we will meet at St. Anne from 6-8 p.m. Sundays. Along with this, we gather first for Mass at 6 p.m. and then move into our Faith Formation and Confirmation groups. We will end at 8 p.m. While the location is new for us, meeting on Sunday night is new for St. Anne.
- The first gathering will be on Sunday, Sept. 22. We will gather in church to attend Mass at St. Anne. Registration materials are enclosed or you can register at eastsideparishes.org/ff. More information will be provided prior to the first meeting.
- The key aspect of this change is that we will tie disciple formation with Mass. This is especially significant for those anticipating Confirmation, but really for children and young people at all levels. Celebrating Mass on Sunday should always be "the source and summit" of the Christian life, but there is too often a disconnect between worship and faith formation. We attend religious ed and go to a Catholic school, but not Mass on Sunday. The link of worship and formation will now be integral.
- The general idea of a shared program was endorsed by our Pastoral Council in the spring, but specifics were formulated by the leadership of the three parishes.

We realize this is a change for families from all of our parishes. Change can be difficult, but we are confident that the benefits of a shared program and connecting Faith Formation with the celebration of Sunday Mass will outweigh whatever inconveniences accompany these changes. If you have questions about what I've outlined, please contact us at faithform@eastsideparishes.org or 715-842-4283.

Peace,



Fr. Tom Lindner, Pastor