

Saint Patrick's/St. Columbanus Faith Formation
PO Box 127 - 311 3rd Street
Neola, IA 51559
(712)485-2754 or (712)485-2750

High School Youth Group Information

The High School Youth Group will look a little different this year. Due to COVID-19, Youth Group is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the youth of our parish to help them understand the importance of their faith as it relates to every day life, growing up and making decisions based on morality and social justice issues. For our young people, this is a lifelong formation of faith.

Please note: These classes are expected for Freshman & Sophomores preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Juniors & Seniors are encouraged to also attend.

Registration: You can register your family in several ways. Registration Sunday will be held on September 20th after Mass for families with children in Pre-K through 12th grade. Please feel free to drop off your family registration form with any necessary changes then or anytime at the Parish office. You can also return the form in the black box outside of the parish hall doors. All Faith Formation sessions for students in grades PreK through 8th will be held on Sundays beginning **October 4th**, after Mass **from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.** Sacramental sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings. High School sessions will be held on Sunday evenings. All sessions for both St. Columbanus and St. Patrick's will be held in the Faith Formation building or Parish Hall in Neola.

Curriculum and Tuition: The Faith Formation program is going through a transition year due to COVID-19. Our theme this year is "Rediscovering our Roots". We seek to enliven the basics of our Faith in our parish families. Catechists will be using the following curriculum to unpack our theme: Alive in Christ for grades 1-6, Pflaum Gospel Weeklies for PreK-1, Encounter for grade 7, and Decision Point for grades 8-12. In addition to these texts, we are working towards incorporating mission into the curriculum through service projects and experiences. Your help is instrumental as our program requires text books, teaching supplies, posters and other materials for our Catechists. Each student will have his/her own supply of materials. Tuition is a necessary part of this process to help pay for these requirements. No one is turned away for the inability to pay. If you are unable to pay at this time, please talk to Alyssa so that something can be worked out. Thanks again to the recommendation of the Finance Council, this year's tuition rates are as follows:

One child enrolled	\$10.00 for the year
Two children enrolled	\$20.00 for the year
Three or more children enrolled	\$25.00 for the year

COVID-19 Updates: We pray for our families as our community deals with COVID-19. After much consideration, our primary plan for this Faith Formation year is to follow a Hybrid plan. We believe the hybrid plan will best help with social distancing and Diocesan recommendations. However, we will be assessing the local and state-wide situation at all times. An At-Home plan will be ready to be acted upon if deemed necessary.

We understand there may be some students who, because of medical considerations, choose to not attend Faith Formation in person. We will work with those students/families to continue to provide Faith Formation through family activities at home. If you do not feel comfortable attending in person classes, please reach out to Alyssa to discuss an at-home plan.

If you feel comfortable attending in person classes, the Diocese requires a COVID-19 Risk Waiver to be signed and returned to the parish office. This can be returned with the registration form and other documents. All who wish to join in person classes, you will need to sign the waiver prior to the start of classes.

If a student has signs or symptoms of COVID-19, he or she will be excluded from Faith Formation classes for 14 days from the first day of symptoms or the date the COVID-19 test came back positive. If a student came in contact with a COVID-19 positive person, that student and immediate household members will be excluded from Faith Formation for 14 days even if they are without symptoms.

Sanitization and Materials: Everyone in our buildings will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when entering the building, and after coughing or sneezing. Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and at all doorway entrances. Each student will have his/her own supplies. Supplies will be placed on the desk for each student each week and then disinfected/moved when being switched for the next week.

Masks: We would ask students to provide their own masks, to not share masks and to frequently launder their masks. If a student or volunteer ever forgets their mask, there will be masks available. Masks will be expected to be worn entering and exiting the building and encouraged in classrooms but not required. Volunteers are expected to wear masks or face shields when in close proximity with students.

Calendar/Schedule: For your reference, here are the dates and times for the Faith Formation sessions. Please note that due to COVID-19, we will be splitting up classes by alphabetical order of last name. Those with a last name that begins with A-K will be meeting for the most part on odd Sunday's. L-Z will meet for the most part on even Sunday's. There are a few exceptions towards the end of the year due to holiday breaks. On weeks in which your child(ren) does not have in person class, at-home work will be brought home for students to work on.

**Due to considerations around social distancing and class sizes, catechists will reevaluate at the end of the first two weeks and determine if changes need to be made to the schedule. Determinations will be made on a class by class basis.

***If you are unable to come on your given Sunday, please reach out to Alyssa to make other arrangements. Exceptions to the schedule can be made as needed with permission of the Faith Formation Director, Alyssa.

October 4 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 A-K
October 11 @ 6:30-8:00pm 11/12 all
October 18 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 L-Z
November 1 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 A-K
November 8 @ 6:30-8:00pm 11/12 all
November 15 High School Retreat (all invited, required for 9/10 grade) 9:30am-4:00pm
November 22 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 L-Z
December 6 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 A-K
December 13 @ 6:30-8:00pm 11/12 all
December 20 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 L-Z
January 10 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 A-K
January 17 @ 6:30-8:00pm 11/12 all
January 24 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 L-Z
February 7 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 A-K
February 17 Ash Wednesday Mass (required for 9/10 grade) 6:00pm
February 21 @ 6:30-8:00pm ABLAZE (all high school students)
February 28 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 L-Z
March 7 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 A-K

March 14 @ 6:30-8:00pm 11/12 all

March 21 @ 6:30-8:00pm 9/10 L-Z

March 23 or 24: Join Communal Reconciliation at either St. Patrick's/St. Columbanus (required for 9/10th grade)

April 11 @ 6:30-8:00pm All (end of year celebration)

2020 Faith Formation Needs Survey: We want to hear from you! Please take some time to participate in the Faith Formation survey in this packet. Every parishioner over the age of 13 is encouraged to complete the survey (Parents/Guardians are encouraged to ask children for their thoughts as well). Feedback will help us best support our parish community. Please note that there is also an online anonymous survey (<https://forms.gle/srrsiqisYTtJzJBq7>) that is the same survey as this paper version. We request you fill out this form or the online survey.

As always, please call us with any questions and/or concerns. We are looking forward to seeing all of you and your families once again for another successful year!

God Bless our Faith Formation families!

Alyssa Beasley

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