

OUR LADY OF THE SNOW FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

175 Blue Point Avenue

Blue Point, NY 11715

631-363-6394/lchristie@olsbp.com

Dear Faith Formation Families,

I am holding in-person meetings this month to discuss the upcoming fall program with you. Here are some notes from the meetings:

Survey Results: I sent a survey last month to get a sense of whether or not families want to return to on-site learning. Over 66% said they do want to meet in classes. Just over 30% want to remain virtual. It is possible that those numbers will change as we grow closer to September. In response to your input, we are offering on-site classes as well as continuing the Google Classrooms for those who choose Home Study.

Student Bibles: Meanwhile, the upcoming fall on-site program is changing from past years. We will use the New American Translation Student Bibles that were purchased last fall and distributed. (If you didn't pick up last year, I have the Bibles.) This is the same translation of the Bible that is used at Mass. Students will bring their Bibles to classes for all nine levels. This will give them an opportunity to "grow into" using and navigating this sacred book. We are no longer using workbooks. For younger levels, the Student Bibles will be supported through instructional scaffolding materials at the tables. The Student Bibles are supported within digital lessons by age-appropriated videos.

On-Site Classes: In past years on-site classes happened in the Mother Church basement and the large church, grouping several levels together at once. This year we are holding all classes in the large church, where the Office of Faith Formation moved last summer. Also, all children will be grouped by level, meaning all levels will meet on the same day and at the same time with all children in that level only. This change allows for a more tailored on-site curriculum in a situation where we are working at tables rather than in classrooms with dividing walls. On-site classes will combine technology with hand-on learning activities at the tables. We have purchased Chromebooks for catechists to utilize at small group tables with students. The virtual lesson sessions developed last year will be updated over the summer and used in conjunction with physical activities at the tables.

New Class Schedule: There is a schedule of dates and times of all on-site classes next year on the parish website. Levels 1 and 9 will be meeting 6 times, once per month. Levels 2-8 will meet approximately 11 times over the course of 6 months. Our program runs from October through March.

Mass: In lessening the times students meet for class, we are creating space for your family to continue to make Mass attendance a priority. Mass is a lesson in itself every Sunday, an experience that allows the Holy Spirit to speak to the heart. Mass is an integral part of parish life, where we bond as a parish community.

Special Needs Students: I am looking to develop a team of volunteer catechists who have a passion for, and understanding of, special needs learning styles. I'm excited to possibly link these talented parishioners to special needs students in various levels.

Remind Alerts: In addition to registering for next year, please make sure you are signed up for Remind Alerts. If you signed up for Remind last year (2020-21), you do not have to sign up again. I moved up all the classes to the next level and archived Level 9. Level 1 is a new group, so everyone with a child entering Level 1 in the fall should join this year's Level 1 Remind group.

Sacraments: We were able to continue to celebrate the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation, 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation throughout the pandemic. I expect that we will continue to offer these sacraments during the Lenten Season and Easter Season of 2022.

Catechists Needed: If you are interested in being a catechist next fall, please fill out the catechist information form on the parish website. Listed below are various links related to this letter.

Rosary Coast to Coast: We are kicking off our year with the Annual National Rosary Coast to Coast Event at Corey Beach on Sunday, October 10, 2021 from 4p.m.-4:45 p.m. where we will say a rosary for our nation as a group. We hope you and your family can come. Classes begin the week of October 18, 2021.

Welcome Mass for Level 1: There will be a welcome Mass for all Level 1 Families on Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 11 a.m. in the large church.

Enrollment Mass for Level 9: There will be an Enrollment Mass for all Level 9 students preparing for Confirmation next year on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 11 a.m.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. See links below.

Sincerely,

Loren Christie

Director, OLS Faith Formation

[2021-22 Registration Link](#)

[2021-22 Class Schedules Link](#)

[Catechist Volunteer Form](#)

[Parish Website Faith Formation Tab](#)

[Remind Codes](#)