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September 11th, 2020

Dear families,

Welcome to a new year of catechesis at St Mary’s! We’re hoping that it’s going to lead you into a closer encounter with Christ in all of His beauty. What we are providing this year will be simple and helpful to your family on many levels. You knew—due both to the pandemic and changes in leadership-- that things would look different; the good news is that these changes will allow us to a return to the proper order of things; a reminder that YOU are meant to be the primary teachers of your children in things of the faith, for which there is *no adequate substitute*. There *are* some fantastic supports for you though, and that’s what this letter is about.

When you register 1st, 4th or 5th grade child at the parish this year, you will receive 3 things:

* **Faith & Life text**-  A beautiful, hardcopy book published by Ignatius Press
* **Faith & Life online**- A link to signup for an online program
* **Parent guide**- A single-page step-by-step guide to each lesson

All 3 cover the same content so you may choose to use *any* or all of these during the year. It is recommended that you simply

1) read a chapter from the text

2) talk through the questions in the parent guide

3) pick two additional activities to do together as a family or parent/child couple

In mid-October, you will be introduced to a **Family Mentor** who has committed to coach you through this year. He or she is there to…

* answer your questions
* provide suggestions and ideas
* pray for you and your children
* and to keep you on track with reminders about where everyone should be in their materials

This will be a new role for everyone but we are excited about the blessings it could bring, and hope you will meet it with a spirit of openness!

While we are not able to host consistent gatherings this year, we are hoping to hold a few special in-person events, the details of which will be forthcoming. If you are one who would be helped by having a scheduled time to make sure this happens in your family, we have provided in the registration the option to sign up for a group that meets weekly on Zoom for a **Lesson Launch**. More details and ongoing support will be offered throughout the year via email and other parish communications. If there are other needs that you think we’ve overlooked, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate.

We are looking forward to a different but still beautiful year together! **REGISTER NOW.**

Laura Danner

Grades 1, 4 & 5

Ignatius Press’s **Faith & Life** series with parish-produced **Parent Guides**

This is a suggested schedule to follow through the year—it will keep you on track for covering all of the recommended material in a timely manner. Should you find you would benefit from a specific meeting time with a group of people (virtually or in person), please let your Mentor, Laura, or Josephine know and we will find a way to make it work.

***Week of…***

Oct 18th- watch a video introduction to the year from Msgr. Royal

* Receive your materials and get to know your Mentor

Oct 25th- Chapter 1

Nov 1- Chapter 2

Nov 8th- Chapter 3

Nov 15th- Chapter 4 Saturday, Nov 28th @ 5:30pm- Advent Wreath Making (1st-5th)

Nov 22nd- *Thanksgiving Break*

Nov 29th- Chapter 5

Dec 6th- Chapter 6

Dec 13th- Chapter 7

Dec 20th- *Christmas Break*

Dec 27th- *Christmas Break*

Jan 3rd- Chapter 8

Jan 10th- Chapter 9

Jan 17th- Chapter 10

Jan 24th- Chapter 11

Jan 31st- Chapter 12 Saturday, Jan 29th @ 5pm- St John Bosco Game Night (4th grade)

Feb 7th- Chapter 13

Feb 14th- *Feb Break*

Feb 21st- Chapter 14

Feb 28th- Chapter 15

Mar 7th- Chapter 16

Mar 14th- Chapter 17

Mar 21st- Chapter 18

Mar 28th- *Holy Week*

April 4th- *(Easter)* Chapter 19

April 11th- *Spring Break*

April 18th- Chapter 20

April 25th- Chapter 21 Saturday, May 1st @ 3:30pm- Rosary Walk (5th grade)

May 2nd- Chapter 22

May 9th- Chapter 23

May 16th- Chapter 24

May 23rd- *(Pentecost)* Chapter 25

May 30th- *Memorial Day Break*

June 6th- Chapter 26

June 13th- Chapter 27

June 20th- Chapter 28

June 27th- Chapters 29 & 30