

ST GEORGE CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

GROWING AS DICIPLES IN MISSION

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Dear Families, I pray that you have had wonderful Christmas celebrations with family and friends. In our Church the official end to the Christmas Season this year is the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord which falls on January 8, 2023. I like to keep our manger scene up until that day as a reminder that although the lights and Santa celebrations are over, the season of celebrating the birth of Jesus doesn't end until He is baptized. Then His REAL ministry begins with all its challenges and blessings. So to for us.

As we enter the New Year and the second half of our formation year together, we have much to be grateful for and much to learn about what the Church is actually asking of us as Catholic role models for our children. We want to know that they have a firm foundation of their faith as well as an emerging sense of discipleship that Jesus invites each one of us toward. In keeping with this we have again implemented the practice of giving you an example of your child's progress for the first part of the year. This is not a test of his or her faith, it is a report of what we experience with your child. For those receiving sacraments this year, it is vital that you are aware of their progress so you can continue to support them with prayers and progress they should be making as the year evolves. If your child knows the prayers in another language, please know that we are supportive of how your family prays together. Our catechists have been working hard to help you raise prayerful children who are building a relationship with Jesus and learning to be good disciples. While some of the progress may not be at a level four, that is a good cue for you to continue to support and help them.

We have initiated a new pick-up plan for the students. As I have mentioned prior in various emails and letters, there is great concern for our children's safety as they exit the building. Some cars are in the line but do not move forward while others are parking at various angles at distant spaces, so the children enter the parking lot unsure of moving cars. I have discussed this situation with our catechists, our parking lot assistants and our staff. We are holding to the process of you coming into the building to pick the children up. We will still have assistants at the door to allow you to enter. Family of our younger grades 1-4 whose classrooms are on the lower level can go directly to their child's classrooms. Students from grades 5-6 will come down to the area inside the building for you to meet them there. If you are allowing your child to walk home, we will need a signed note stating that for our files. This will also give you a chance to see their catechist and maybe get to know other parents in the parish. We will allow you to go past the outside doors as we saw that it was too congested, and again, unsafe.

Lastly, I encourage you to keep up on your tuition and fees. Just like you we struggle to make ends meet and we rely on your stewardship to help our Formation Program move toward the goal of building discipleship within the parish. If for some unforeseen circumstance you find yourself unable to meet these financial goals, please reach out and let me know so we can work toward assisting you and be aware that you are working toward supporting the program in other ways. If we do not hear from you we make assumptions that aren't necessarily valid.

I pray that you and your family have a healthy and happy New Year and that together we can create a wonderful community of prayer, service and formation. I look forward to what God has planned for each of us in the coming months.
Peace, to you and those you love!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Lassandrello

Jeanne Lassandrello
Director of Life-Long Faith Formation