



# ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2016-2017

Dear people of the parish community of St. Mary Magdalen,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 Faith Formation Year! We will begin our year on **Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**. We will again be offering dinner each time we meet for class. This year, we have opted to change our schedule slightly in regard to our communal gathering prayer. We will be gathering at 6:15 p.m. in the church on the first evening of class, (9/21), during the Advent Season, (11/30, 12/7 & 12/14), during the Lenten Season, (3/8, 3/15, 3/22 & 3/29) and on the final day of class (5/3), for a communal prayer service. The other weeks, a means of fostering and encouraging an active prayer life in our participants will be gathering for prayer at 6:15 p.m. in their respective rooms with specific focus for each age group.

We will be using our Faith First Legacy program for the final year in 2016-17. Next year we will be using the *Be My Disciples* from RCL Benzinger series in our Elementary and Middle School classrooms. This series will be replacing the *Faith First* series which is no longer published. This program is the newer generation of the Faith First program. This allows us to reach the catechetical objectives set by the National Directory for Catechesis and devote ourselves to the basic and essential doctrines and practices of our Catholic faith. Lessons also include topics that encourage spiritual development and strengthening of Christian identity. To do this in the most effective way we are requiring each student in grades 1-7 to purchase a student book. This allows the catechists to offer a comprehensive lesson plan, offers the children a concrete experience of the lesson and gives parents the opportunity to see what the children have learned and discuss the lesson with them.

We will be offering Wee Ones Worship, (WOW) during the 9 A.M. Mass. This class is for children 3 years to Kindergarten. It is held in the Family Center and lasts the entire Mass. This class requires registration. We offer Children's Liturgy of the Word, (CLW), at the 11 A.M. Mass. This is an open participation for children between the ages of 3-8 years old. Dismissal takes place during the Mass and does not require pre-registration, but is listed on the registration form.

Please note:

## **Attendance/ Costs/Materials:**

- ◇ Students in grades 1-8 are expected to attend all classes.
- ◇ 2<sup>nd</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade classes include Sacramental Preparation. There will also be additional instruction and requirements for the reception of the Sacraments that will be outlined to students registered in those classes. *\*Please note that there is a section on the registration form for current Sacramental needs. If you or your child did not celebrate a Sacrament at the traditional age, please use that section to indicate that you would like to prepare for the celebration of a Sacrament.*
- ◇ The cost for each student in grades 1-7, is \$25.00, which includes the cost of the *Faith First* Student Book and materials used. Please include payment when registering your student. (Financial aid is available, see registration form.)
- ◇ The cost for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and High School students is \$20.00 to cover materials and activities.
- ◇ There is a maximum cost per family of \$75.00.

- ◇ The student books will be given out at the first class. The books will remain in the classrooms throughout the formation year. The weekly lesson will be sent home with the student. At the end of the formation year the books with all of the remaining lessons will be sent home with the student.
- ◇ Please note that parents of Elementary and Middle School students should accompany their student into the building. Supervision by the staff and catechists does not begin until 6:15 P.M.

**Schedule:**

- ◇ Classes begin Wednesday, September 21, 2016.
- ◇ A calendar of class dates and pertinent information is enclosed with this letter and is also available on the website.
- ◇ Children's Choir, (for children grades k-5), will meet beginning September 21st from 4:30-5:15 P.M. in room 2 of the Family Center. Further information will be given to participants at rehearsal.
- ◇ Dinner begins at 5:15 P.M.
- ◇ Class begins at 6:15 P.M and ends at 7:45 P.M. *\*Please note that no Elementary students will be allowed to leave the building unaccompanied.*
- ◇ WOW (Wee Ones Worship) will be offered at the 9 A.M. Mass, beginning 9/18/2016.
- ◇ CLW (Children's Liturgy of the Word) will be offered at the 11 A.M. Mass, beginning 9/18/16.

**Miscellaneous Information:**

- ◇ Because the public school systems in the area offer a comprehensive program on safety, we are no longer required to include the Protecting God's Children classes as part of our curriculum. Parents of home schooled children or any parent that would like to present the lessons at home will be given the materials upon request. If you would like this information please contact the Parish Office.
- ◇ If you need to contact us during a Faith Formation evening, please call **(616) 455-9310 ext. 109**.

**Adult Class Information:**

- ◇ Adults who wish to participate in Wednesday evening activities are invited to register to join us in studying. Please watch the bulletin for study scope, materials, and cost.

There is a separate form for adult class registration available in the Gathering Area.

The session will last for 12 weeks.

**Registration Information:**

- ◇ You can mail/return the completed registration form to the Parish Office by September 16, 2016 to ensure that the proper materials are available on the first night of class.
- ◇ Most importantly, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office at 455-9310. We will be glad to assist you.
- ◇ Please note that each registration form now contains release forms regarding social media, the release form as well as our student code of conduct contract can be read in full on our website.

We pray that the entire parish family – from the youngest to the oldest – will seize the opportunity offered in this year's Faith Formation Program so that our relationship with God can be deepened and our bonds with the world and with one another can be strengthened.

Sincerely,



Molly Wisdom

Coordinator of Faith Formation