



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

602 EVERGLADE DRIVE ♦ MADISON ♦ WISCONSIN ♦ 53717 ♦ (608)833-2606

## Faith Formation 2020-2021

August 24, 2020

Dear Parent(s),

***"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Mt. 19:14***

It is with great joy that we inform you of our plan for Faith Formation 2020-2021! This year we will be working hard to help you build the Domestic Church at Home and strengthen the relationship between your family and Christ! Whether at home or in the parish, we are committed in being a **Catholic parish where people experience Jesus Christ in a way that changes how they live.** See below the new changes to our Faith Formation programs.

**Elementary:** This year we will offer In-person formation, with an At-home option, through **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)** for Pre-school to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, while our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be doing an At-home formation through textbooks and online presentations. To minimize the amount of students in the building at a time, we are opening additional sessions for in-person formation: Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. CGS for pre-school (3-5 year olds) only, and Tuesdays and Wednesdays back to back sessions (4:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.) for K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders. We will also have additional spaces available to promote social distancing during in-person sessions. This year, due to the challenges we are facing, we will not have **Adaptive Catechesis**, but families can still get into our email list for resources.

**Please note:** If your child is going into 1<sup>st</sup> grade this Fall, they will need to be registered this year in 1<sup>st</sup> grade Faith formation (in-person or at-home) in order to prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Communion in 2nd grade.

**Middle School/High School:** This year our Middle School and Confirmation Program on Sundays is going to virtual (at least from October to December). We are going to try something brand new, Alpha teen online! Alpha is an invitation to explore life's biggest questions and a chance to look at the life and message of Jesus. Every opinion and question is welcome, and this is not meant just for students. Parents, we want you to join us too. We will open in prayer, watch a video together and as questions come up, we will break into parent and student groups to chat about them. We will end with prayer and hope that this will open many more conversations in your family. If you are looking for some in-person contact, we will be starting a youth group that will meet every other Monday and will focus on how to love God, love others and make disciples. You are welcome to all or one. If you would like to receive a weekly email about upcoming events, classes, and how to take Catholic parenting to the next level, please text **STAalltheway** to **84576** to join our Flocknote account!

**Registration is OPEN on August 24!** Follow this link (<https://stamadison.org/re-registration/>) to access the Faith Formation Letter and Calendar, the Faith Formation Guidelines and Expectations, and to register online. **Registration is due on September 15<sup>th</sup>.** For registration and sacramental costs, please refer to the registration form and make checks payable to: *St. Thomas Aquinas Parish*. Questions? Contact us! [lorianne@stamadison.org](mailto:lorianne@stamadison.org) or [dominick@stamadison.org](mailto:dominick@stamadison.org) or at 608-833-2600.

Peace,

  
Lorianne Aubut

Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation

  
Dom Meyer

Coordinator of Middle & High School Faith Formation

***Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.***