

Christ the King Parish Faith Formation



This year has certainly been one of extreme, unprecedented circumstances, especially for our children and the family members who help support them. As you know by now, we will not be meeting in the church complex this fall for classes. We are not set up in the building to follow CDC guidelines for student gatherings.

As adults, we know how much we are relying on our faith right now. Children too need to feel close and comforted by our loving God. I have thought deeply about the best way to offer a religious education program that permits children time with one another to continue and explore their faith journey while not bogging them down with another zoom class. My goal: to provide a shorter than usual session that does not feel like class time. Just like adults gather at coffee hour or book clubs to continue exploring the readings, I propose: **Diving Deeper Into God's Word**; approximately 30-minute sessions on zoom with catechists and fellow students to discover how the lessons learned in the remote, *My Catholic Faith Delivered* program can be applied to daily life. This will also be an opportunity for the children to grow in the community. Just as team members working toward a common goal form bonds of trust and support, so should our children develop their the community of faith, facing life's challenges with others for whom faith is a source of guidance, comfort, and understanding! During these particularly challenging times, it is most important for us to provide opportunities for our children to process these challenges through the lenses of faith. We've all seen the reports citing the impact that the recent shutdown has had on the mental health of children and adults. While meeting virtually presents some challenges, it does provide us with an opportunity to create community.

Diving Deeper will be 30-minute sessions for groups of children to gather for activities such as song, games, skits, bible study and other activities that tap into something they already know or have experienced, reinforcing the class themes that were learned and explored during their time with the chapter lesson from the *My Catholic Faith Delivered* Online program. The schedule for these sessions will be flexible and dates to be determined. These will also include opportunities for mixed grade groups to come together for fun activities as well like, Faith BINGO and Faith Trivia Competitions. Prizes and fun will bring lightness to these challenging times.

Please join us in prayer as we seek God's guidance and direction during these times in which we live knowing, *that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

Yours in Christ,

Kathy Laird – Christ the King Parish Office of Faith Formation