

New Kensington Catholic Community

Mount Saint Peter

100 Freeport Road

Saint Mary of Czestochowa

857 Kenneth Avenue

NEW KENSINGTON, PA 15068

Saint Joseph

1125 Leishman Avenue

August 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you and your family are enjoying this summer. In many ways it reminds me of the summers of my youth. I never imagined then, the things that we would be able to do now through technology.

That being said, this fall we will be relying heavily on technology to teach the children. We have received a grant to equip our catechists with iPads so that they may teach the children via ZOOM.

As you know, parents are the first and principal teachers of the faith. The responsibility to provide for the religious formation of our children is a serious obligation that extends into their teenage years. The staff of the New Kensington Catholic Community is committed to assist you in the work of sharing faith with your child(ren) There are a number of options that we offering you in the coming school year.

- **Mary Queen of Apostles Catholic School (MQA)** is our elementary school which provides a quality Catholic education for students in pre K through 8th grade. Tuition assistance is available to assist families who choose this option. Visit <https://www.mqaschool.org> for more information or call 724 335 4411 to schedule a visit.
- **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)** is an approach to the religious formation of children ages 3 to 12 which utilizes Montessori teaching principles to help children develop an informed and genuine relationship with God. Scripture, liturgy, salvation history, and sacramental signs provide the content of the catechesis – with a special emphasis on scripture. Although usually a hands-on environment, this year we will adapt the program with virtual components until we can safely gather. CGS will meet virtually on Tuesdays for Level One at 9:30 AM and for Levels One, Two and Three at 6:00 PM
- **Faith First** is the traditional classroom model of learning. This year however for our children's safety and the safety of our catechists, classes will be taught virtually until it is safe for us to gather. Classes will held on Mondays with a 6:00 PM start time for Grades K – 2 and a 7:00 PM start time for Grades 3-5.
- **Homeschool** is also an option for parents which to teach their children at home with the same curriculum used by Faith First.

Both Faith First and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will begin on Monday, September 21, 2020 with a combined Family Catechesis Night in the Parking lot of MSP at 6:00 PM. In addition, combined Family Catechesis Nights will be held monthly as noted on the calendar. They will count as class time and as such will need to be made up if missed.

Registration forms are enclosed for families wishing to register children for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Faith First and the Homeschool option. Forms may be copied. Additional forms are also available on the parish website www.mountsaintpeter.org, or in the Parish Office.

Enclosed in this mailing you will also find information on **Flocknote** a new communication program that we are now using for all ministries. Please take a moment to review the literature and sign up! It's Free! We will no longer be using the *Remind* platform as a way of communication with you.

Many Blessings to You and Your Family,

Jamie Dillon MA MS
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

Enclosures: Registration Form
Calendar
Flocknote Communication Information