

Parent Meeting Notes from Monday, September 21st

Thank you for being here with us tonight. I deeply appreciate your gathering in community to prayer for the success of our faith formation. Last year was my first year as the parish catechetical leader. My focus was and still is the building of a lively and loving community here at St. Vincent Ferrer; one where your children will feel the love and support of their teachers, fellow students and our parish community. Your presence shows your children, faith is a priority to you. Through two special activities last year, the **advent prayer quilts** and the **Lenten lunches** I tried to enliven our students' Catholic faith through service to others. In both instances and through the supports of many parents, I believe we were very successful in that goal. We will again offer those two opportunities as family gatherings and hope that all of you will attend them.

Three important ways you can help cultivate your child's faith:

- 1.) Regular Mass attendance and participation in the liturgy are vital to your child's faith development. Engaging in the St. Vincent Faith Community by signing up to take home the Vocation Cup for the week and praying for vocations, bring up the gifts at Mass, grabbing some prayer blanket squares and decorate them on a Saturday afternoon together with your child, decorating the church for Christmas or Easter, or joining a ministry or commission all show your child that you belong to a parish community. We need your family to enliven our community.
- 2.) Please set aside an area, shelf, drawer for the Faith Formation calendar, your child's textbook and their homework folder. Important communication for the program and from your child's teacher will come home in this folder from time to time. It will help make Mondays less hectic when you are rushing to get here.
- 3.) Drop off your child with enough time for them to get to class on time – Classes start at 6:30 p.m. If your child is ill or has your family has a commitment, please call our office and report them absent. We are working very hard to keep our students safe.

I'd like to start tonight's overview with a quick run through of the calendar.

(Calendar) (See Calendar for 0910 Events download)

Last year, we established a **dismissal procedure** which seemed to run pretty smoothly once we got the hang of it. Orange cones and buckets will again help guide you through dismissal. We will have parent volunteers at key locations to help as well. We appreciate your cooperation in the implementation of this procedure. We mailed home an explanation of the procedure which was on the reverse side of the invitation for this evening. I would be happy to answer any individual questions during the refreshment time at the conclusion of this overview. As was the practice last year, preschooler will be dismissed 10 minutes earlier at 7:35 pm to allow them time to get to their cars before the rush of older students. Parents of Preschoolers and Kindergarteners will be given priority parking privileges. This means that if they arrive before 7:40 pm, they will be allowed to pull up to the hall doors. The rest of the families will line up behind the orange cones at the light post on the south side of the Herbert St. parking lot. Teachers will be the only ones parking and entering on the Gardenia side.

Tonight and four other times this year, we will ask parents to parking and pick up their children in the fall.

These are all family gathering nights and the dates for these **special dismissals** are:

Monday, November 30th at our Advent Gathering;

Monday, December 7th at the Immaculate Conception Mass (dismissal will be around 8:00 pm);

Monday, February 22 at our Lenten Warming Center Lunch making Gathering;

Monday, April 19 at our End of the Year Family Appreciation Carnival

Special notices will come home to remind you

Families in Sacrament Preparation will have Parent Meetings coming up:

On Saturday, October 3rd the meeting for Confirmation will start with 4:00 pm Mass in the Church. Special seating at this Mass will be reserved so preparation families can sit together; and the meeting will be afterwards in the Faith Formation office. Parents and Students are invited

On Sunday, October 11th the meeting for Eucharist/Reconciliation will start with the 10:30 am Mass in the Church. Special seating at the Mass will be reserved for students and families; and the meeting will be afterwards in the Faith Formation office. Parents are invited. Babysitting will be available for children in attendance. All dates, workshops and information will be given out at that time.

New to the Program:

- **St. Francis Pledge/Caring for God's Creation Night** – Monday, October 5th
 - o Students will learn about the Catholic's response to Environmental Concerns; They will bring home the website address where you can pledge your cooperation and find out more details.
- **Trunk or Treat/Halloween Gathering** – Halloween is on Saturday. Want to plan something in the early afternoon or after 4:00pm Mass. Looking for planning help and parents to bring treats and distribute them in our parking lot while children parade in costumers. We will need families to sign up (20 or so) and possibly show a (fun 90 minute) Halloween movie in the parish hall with popcorn and refreshments.
- **Pizza and a Movie Family Night** to kick off the Winter Break on Friday, February 12th. Looking for parent planning help.
- **Earth Day event** – Sunday, April 25th after 10:30 am Mass. Looking for parent and kid involvement and planning.

Opportunities for food donations:

- We will have our Thanksgiving Food Drive for Deserving Families on Monday, November 17th
- We welcome Bake Good donations for the Bake Sale on the weekend of December 5th and 6th. Through this project, our 8th grade students raise money to buy Christmas presents for deserving family.
- We will also be asking for donations for the First Eucharist reception on Sunday, April 18th and the Confirmation Reception which will probably be in May.

Photo Op-

I am looking for someone who would be interested in being our faith formation events photographer. Please see me if this sounds like something you would be interested in doing.

Information Please -

We sent home a number of pieces of information for your information with registration. Please read over the Family Brochure and go over our expected behaviors and unacceptable behaviors. Our goal is to create a safe social environment for students. This brochure, as well as the calendar and other forms are posted on the Faith Formation page on our website: **svfmh.org**. Pictures and news can be found on the Faith Formation New link. If classes are cancelled for inclement weather, it will be posted on the website by 5:30 pm that night.