Mary's Faith Formation Handbook 2019-2020





301 High Ave. East, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 www.stmarysosky.com

St. Mary Parish continues in the Diocese of Davenport under the guidance and leadership of the Pastor continue the message of Jesus Christ that provides the foundation upon which a life of faith, hope, and love is built. We recognize our responsibility as a parish to provide for every member of our parish community lifelong faith formation consistent with the Diocesan guidelines and of the Universal church teaching through the ministry of Word, Worship, and Service.

0ur Goal

To promote and encourage: the proclamation of the message revealed by God which the Church proclaims, community in the life of the Holy Spirit, and service to the Christian community and the entire community.

General Information

Pastor

Father John Spiegel spiegelj@diodav.org 641.673.6680 - office 319.383.6635 - cell

Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Samantha Ridder oskystmarydre@diodav.org 641.673.0659 - office 620.200.3255 - cell

Faith Formation Commission, Chair

Shanna Smith shannagr45@yahoo.com 641.660.9614

Faith Formation Commission Members

Amanda Lemke Jennifer Feudner Felix Lopez Katie Rosvold, Secretary Shanna Smith, Chair Donna Tylkowsiki

Church Address

315 1st Ave. East Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Fellowship Center

311 1st Ave. East Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Catechist

Kindergartner - Amanda Lemke alemke@ratcliffblake.com 641.660.4858
Jamie Life

1st Grade - Sydney Katko slkatko@icloud.com 641.660.3123

2nd Grade - Charlotte Katko clkatko11@gmail.com 641.660.0533

3rd Grade - Jennifer Feudner jnjfeudner@gmail.com 563.537.0123

4th Grade - Katie Rosvold katie_rosvold@outlook.com 641.660.6650

5th Grade - Shanna Smith shannagr45@yahoo.com 641.660.9614 Matt Smith

6th Grade - Gerad & Jodi Curry curry.jodi@gmail.com 217.242.8894

8th Grade - Steve Phillips s_jphillips@msn.com 218.955.0014 Lyn Harter

Sacrament Preparation Baptismal Prep

Fr. John Spiegel 641.673.6680 oskystmary@mahaska.org

1st Sacraments & Confirmation

Samantha Ridder oskystmarydre@diodav.org 641.673.0659

Marriage Prep

Fr. John Spiegel 641.673.6680 spiegelj@diodav.org

F.R.O.G (Middle School Fellowship)

Cindy Abrahamson abefam2000@yahoo.com 641.660.2070 Felix Lopez Felix8662.fl@gmail.com 641.660.0095

High School Youth Group

Samantha Ridder oskystmarydre@diodav.org 641.673.0659

Safe Environment Local Designee

Samantha Ridder oskystmarydre@diodav.org



Faith Formation 2019-2020 Calendar (K-8

All Classes held from 9:15-10:15am. K-5th will meet in the Church Basement, with 6-8 meeting in the Fellowship Center. September

8 - Household Sunday!

Knight of Columbus Breakfast

- 15 Regular Class
- 22 Regular Class Altar Server Training
- 29 Regular Class

October

6 - Household Sunday!

Fall Clean Up

- 13 Regular Class
- 20 Regular Class
- 27 Regular Class

November

3 - Household Sunday!

Saints Got Talent: Take 2!

- 10 Regular Class
- 17 Regular Class Children's Choir (8am Mass) Altar Server Review for Advent
- 24 Regular Class

December

- 1 No Class (Happy Thanksgiving)
- 8 Regular Class
- 15 Regular Class
- 22 No Class (Christmas Break)
- 29 No Class (Christmas Break)

January

5 - Household Sunday! 12 Days of Christmas Party

- 12 Regular Class
- 19 Regular Class
- 26 Regular Class

February

2 - Household Sunday!

Safe Environment Sunday

- 9 Regular Class
- 16 Regular Class
- 23 Regular Class (Altar Server Review) Sweet Sunday Social Fundraiser

March

- 1 Household Sunday! The Mass
- 8 Regular Class
- 15 No Class (Spring Break)
- 22 Regular Class
- 29 Regular Class

April

- 5 Household Sunday! Spring Clean Up!
- 12 No Class (Easter Sunday)
- 19 Regular Class
- 26 Regular Class

May

Advent

3 - Household Sunday!

Knights of Columbus Carnival after regular class. Children's Choir (8am Mass)

Household Sundays!

Household Sundays are an invitation for your entire family to share their faith together with our parish family! The Bible shows us the importance of the household. Acts 16:31 states, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your **household.**" In 1 Timothy 5:8 we are told, "Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own **household**, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." We are asked to provide a foundation of faith to our family.

The goal of **Household Sundays** is to sever as an opportunity for our parish families to share their faith together in community. Each family is expected to have one adult from their family attend the Household Sunday events with their child(ren).

Household Sundays are held on the first Sunday of each month from 9:15-10:15am in the Parish Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

September

18 - F.R.O.G., 6:30-7:7:45pm (Fellowship Center)

22 - Altar Server Training, 9:15-10:15am (Church)

October

16 - F.R.O.G., 6:30-7:7:45pm (Fellowship Center)

20 - Deanery Corn Maze

27 - Praise Band (8am Mass)

November

20 - F.R.O.G., 6:30-7:7:45pm (Fellowship Center)

December

10 - Advent by Candlelight (Youth Volunteers Needed)

14 - Communal Penance, 10:30-11:30am (Church)

18 - F.R.O.G., 6:30-7:7:45pm (Fellowship Center)

January

15 - F.R.O.G., 6:30-7:7:45pm (Fellowship Center)

26 - Deanery Ski Trip to Seven Oaks

February

19 - F.R.O.G., 6:30-7:7:45pm (Fellowship Center)

23 - Praise Band (8am Mass) Sweet Sunday Social Fundraiser

March

25 - F.R.O.G., 6:30-7:7:45pm (Fellowship Center)

April

15 - F.R.O.G., 6:30-7:7:45pm (Fellowship Center)

26 - F.R.O.G. End of the Year BBQ

*All Calendar events are subject to change.

Any students interested in participating in the Parish Band should contact Jenny Feudner via email jnjfeudner@gmail.com or phone 563.537.0123 for more information on practice dates and times.



September

- 8 Pizza Kick Off! 6:15-7:45pm
- 15 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 22 Altar Server Training 9:15am Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 29 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm

October

- 6 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 13 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 20 Deanery Corn Maze *No Youth Group*
- 27 Praise Band 8am Mass Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm

November

- 3 *No Youth Group*Confirmation Mass and Reception
- 10 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 17 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 24 No Youth Group (NCYC)

December

- 1 No Youth Group (Happy Thanksgiving)
- 8 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 15 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 22 No Youth Group (Christmas Break)
- 29 No Youth Group (Christmas Break)

January

- 5 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 8 *Digging Deeper*Catholic Ethics and Morals
- 12 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 15 *Digging Deeper*Catholic Ethics and Morals
- 19 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 22 *Digging Deeper*Catholic Ethics and Morals
- 26 Deanery Ski Trip *No Youth Group*
- 29 *Digging Deeper*Catholic Ethics and Morals

February

- 2 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 5 *Digging Deeper*Catholic Ethics and Morals
- 9 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 12 *Digging Deeper*Catholic Ethics and Morals
- 16 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 19 *Digging Deeper*Catholic Ethics and Morals
- 23 Praise Band 8am Mass Sweet Sunday Social Fundraiser Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 26 *Digging Deeper*Catholic Ethics and Morals

March

- 1 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 8 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 15 No Youth Group (Spring Break)
- 22 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 29 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm

April

- 5 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 12 No Youth Group (Easter Sunday)
- 19 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm
- 26 Youth Group 6:15-7:45pm

May

- 3 End of the Year BBQ!
- 17 Graduation Mass and Reception

Digging Deeper!

Digging Deeper is an opportunity for our high school students to take a more in-depth look into different topics of our faith during the months of January and February.

This year we will be looking at the Catholic understanding of morals and ethics.

Providing students an opportunity to better understand and articulate their beliefs.

Any students interested in participating in the Parish Band should contact Jenny Feudner via email jnjfeudner@gmail.com or phone 563.537.0123 for more information on practice dates and times.

Confirmation

September, 11- Confirmation Class 6-8pm, Parish Center

October 9 - Confirmation Class 6-8pm, Parish Center

October 25-26 - Confirmation Retreat

October 30 - Confirmation Practice with Sponsor or Parent 6pm, Church

November 3 - Confirmation Mass and Reception (5pm Mass)

*Students and Sponsor need to be at the Church by 4:15pm.
Reception with Bishop Zinkula to follow in Parish Center.

Confirmation

Friday, October 25

4:30pm - Departure from Parish Center to Lake View Camp (Tracey, Iowa)

Saturday, October 26

5pm - Mass at St. Mary's, Pella

6pm - Dinner

7pm - Penance Service

8:30pm - Return to Oskaloosa,

St. Mary's Parish Center

*Parents and/or Sponsors are invited to join us for the closing of the retreat with Mass, Dinner, and a communal Penance Service held at St. Mary's in Pella. (726 218th Place, Pella, Iowa)

Sacraments

First Penance and First Communion preparation is done through 2nd grade Faith Formation and Sacraments Camp. All students who attend Sacraments Camp are required to have completed 2nd Faith Formation.

Sacraments Camp July 27-31, 2020

First Penance - July 29, 2020 at 7pm

Family Picnic - July 31, 2020 at Noon

First Communion - August 2, 2020 at Sunday Masses

Totus

Slide into a week of fun with Totus Tuus!

I only heard great things about last week (Totus Tuus)! The team did a wonderful job not only engaging the kids but really teaching. Every time I hear a fun fact Xavier learned or a story from last week it makes my heart smile.

This program is truly planting seeds of Faith in our kids!

-Amanda Lemke



Totus Tuus offers a week long daytime program for those entering 1st-6th grade from 9-3pm Monday-Friday. An evening program is also offered Sunday-Thursday from 7-9:15 for all 7-12th grade students. This summer the team of four college students will be covering the Ten Commandments and Glorious Mysteries. *Dates to be announced late Spring 2020!*



Sweet Sunday Social

Annual Fundraiser for Faith Formation Household Sundays!
Sunday, February 23, 2020
Mark your calendar now!

Faith Formation Expenses

There is no direct cost for PreK-12th grade Faith Formation. As a parish, we feel it is important to

offer this opportunity for our youth to grow in understanding of their faith and relationship with God. We want to make this available to all, even those who might not otherwise be able to afford participation.

Faith Formation does have expenses. To help cover expenses request may be made for supplies during the year, we ask that each family contribute to the support of our programs through

Fundraising

Middle school and high school students have numerous opportunities to participate in local, deanery, and diocesan wide events. Some of these events are more costly than others. Once your child has reached 6th grade, they can begin fundraising. Money earned through our fundraising events is divided proportionately between those who participated. These funds are recorded on an individual basis and can be used for future events.

Scholarship

Activities

It is the desire of St. Mary's to engage as many people in activities as possible. It is our hope that no one is turned away from an activity for financial reasons. If students participate in all the fundraising opportunities. If your family has a financial need, please do not hesitate to share this need with Fr. John or Samantha Ridder.

Graduates

St. Mary's offers graduating seniors an opportunity to apply for a post-secondary school scholarship. Application are typically emailed out in February with a due date in April. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to submit ALL required components of the application and complete ALL the questions asked on the application. Any missing documents or unanswered question will disqualify and applicant. Recipients of these scholarships are expected to be actively engaged in their faith and parish.



Absence

We strive for maximum attendance each week as well as from year to year. Growing in faith is a life-long process and children need the consistency of attending session on a regular basis to form a foundation for life-long learning. To insure the safety of our children, attendance is taken at the beginning of class time and recorded in the parish database.

Please notify the catechist if your child/children will not be attending class. It is the responsibility of the parent and child to gather information on what assignments need to be completed.

Sacramental Preparation and Attendance

Sacramental Preparation for 1st Reconciliation, 1st Communion, & Confirmation is taught outside of Sunday school classes. The process which we engage our youth is designed to help them grow into a deeper relationship with the Trinity. We learn to love more when we know a person more and therefore, learning about God– Father, Son, & Holy Spirit– and spending time with Him, is crucial for this growth. Therefore, class attendance is required at both Sunday school and Preparation classes.

Participation in a Sacramental prep class will only be allowed if the student is attending Sunday School classes in the years prior to the year the Sacrament is offered. If registered for a sacramental class, only 2 absences are allowed. Make up work and/or classes are expected for any absences.

End of Class Dismissal

Students in grades K-4 are required to be picked up by a parent or older sibling. Parents are asked to wait outside of the classroom until catechist opens the door.

Books and Materials

Parents are to see that their child arrives for class with all needed materials. If books are sent home, they must be returned each week along with any assigned work.



Weather Related Concerns

Weather Related Cancelations will be posted on the parish website and Facebook. An email will also be sent out to all parishioners.

K-8 classes rarely cancel for weather. Please use your best judgment. If you are unable to attend Mass Sunday morning due to a weather emergency or natural disaster, please do not attempt to drive into church for Faith Formation classes.

If school is dismissed early for weather related emergencies, all evening classes will be cancelled or postponed. Sacramental preparation classes will be rescheduled.

Discipline

The educational goals, philosophy, and policies of the parish teach responsibility and self-discipline. This is the key to good conduct, consideration for others, and learning. Therefore, to provide a Christian setting and a learning environment that will benefit each person in the parish community, we follow these rules:

Code of Conduct

- 1. I understand that I am created by God and live in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2. I understand that God does not want or cause bad things to happen.
- 3. I understand that God is with me even when I am hurting or sad.
- 4. I understand the Circle of Grace that God gives me and others.
- 5. I understand that I can help stamp out "bullying" by not being a silent bystander.
- 6. I understand that speaking out and taking positive actions when bullying occurs makes a difference.

Because of this:

- 1. My actions will be safe and show respect within my Circle of Grace.
- 2. I will act safe and show respect towards others' Circle of Grace
- 3. My words and actions will represent truth
- 4. I will identify and maintain appropriate healthy boundaries
- 5. If there is a question that these boundaries are violated I will talk with my parents or a trusted adult.

Follow Through:

The first time a situation occurs where discipline is necessary it shall be handled by the classroom teacher.

The second time a situation occurs with the same student a faith formation coordinator will be notified and will then meet with the student.

Drugs and Alcohol Statement

The parish recognizes the adverse effects of chemical abuse. Therefore, the parish prohibits the use, passing, or selling of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs in any form by students. Matches, cigarette lighters, knives, or weapons of any kind are also prohibited. Parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified of any violations. The student may be suspended from the faith formation program and/or a monitoring program arranged.

Housekeeping

At the end of each class, the rooms should be returned to their original state. Please be sure that lids are put on markers and pens, papers are put away, garbage is thrown away. Please place the chairs on the tables.

Refreshments

Snacks will not be provided. It is up to each individual catechist if they would like to have snacks in their room. If the catechist decides to have the class attend coffee time or a pancake breakfast as a group, parents & guardians please remember that a free will offering is accepted.

Open Door Policy

If there is anything of concern regarding the learning environment, parish facilities, or any other factors within our jurisdiction regarding the wellbeing of your child(ren), please contact the Director of Faith Formation, Samantha Ridder via phone at 641-673-0659 or email at oskystmarydre@diodav.org.

Protecting God's Children

Child sexual abuse is a worldwide public health issue. Child abuse, particularly child sexual abuse, is reprehensible—especially when the wrongdoer is affiliated with the Church. The VIRTUS® programs assist the Church in being a safe haven for children and a messenger for preventing child sexual abuse within the Church and society in general. We seek to achieve this lofty goal through our child sexual abuse prevention program: Protecting God's Children®.

The Protecting God's Children Program

Most organizations that work with children have some sort of child safety program. Through the Protecting God's Children program, we maximize those efforts by helping churches and religious organizations refine their roles as child-safe environments and empowering caring adults to protect children.

Why Does It Work?

Child abusers seek to operate and abuse their power within nurturing, child-friendly environments where it is assumed that nobody would want to harm a child. Religious organizations of all faiths are an easy target. The Protecting God's Children program implements safety mechanisms that send a message to all abusers and potential abusers:

- Child abuse is not tolerated,
- Children are vigilantly protected,
- Victims are listened to, heard, and shielded from further abuse, and
- Offenders are identified and punished.

By utilizing best practices for training and loss prevention, the Protecting God's Children program helps make churches safe for all people—especially children.

How Does It Work?

Maximizing a church's role as a child-safe environment begins with making adults more aware of the ways children and adults interact with each other. The Protecting God's Children program educates and trains adults (clergy, religious, teachers, staff, volunteers, and parents) about the dangers of abuse, the warning signs of abuse, the ways to prevent abuse, the methods of properly reporting suspicions of abuse, and responding to allegations of abuse.

All VIRTUS training programs, including the PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN programs, are comprehensive and multi-dimensional—incorporating proven best practice standards for the prevention of child sexual abuse by clergy, staff, volunteers, and others who interact with children within the church environment. Our training programs incorporate live training, train-the-facilitator education, awareness videos, and ongoing web-based training through online training bulletins and training modules via our VIRTUS *Online* system.

Using The Church To Protect Children

For any organization, the best practice to prevent wrongdoing, including child sexual abuse, is to have an organization use its own people to facilitate awareness of the issue. The Protecting God's Children program begins with the training of internal facilitators individuals selected by the archdiocese, diocese, or religious organization to train other adults and parents on how to best protect children. We use facilitator-led awareness sessions and continuous online training so that participants learn the best methods for delivering their message, including the training for the Protecting God's Children program.

Training Adults To Protect Children

We begin by making adults of the Church that interact with children aware of how to protect children. Our Protecting God's Children program for adults is a three-hour live awareness session instructing adults of the Church that to protect children you must have continuous awareness and vigilance. This awareness session makes trainees understand the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five empowerment steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. Continuing online training is a valuable component of the Protecting God's Children program for the continued awareness of child abuse