



Our Lady of Peace | Sacred Heart & Corpus Christi | Saint John the Baptist

Marshfield, Wisconsin

July 14, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Elementary School Students:

We write today to share with you exciting news about *Family Formation*, a new approach to religious education that the four parishes of the Greater Marshfield Area are adopting. As your pastors, we want to offer you the most effective program to assist you in handing on the faith to your children in grades one through five, while at the same time utilizing our combined parish resources in the best possible way.

*Family Formation* is an innovative and effective Catholic religious education program currently used by parishes and families across the US and Canada, which we will begin using here in Marshfield this September. Based on the principle that "Parents are the primary educators in the Faith" (*General Directory for Catechesis*, 255), *Family Formation* revolves around three important components:

1. weekly in-home family lessons—given by parents to their children using resources *Family Formation*,
2. monthly classroom instruction—taught by trained catechists to children in grade level classrooms, and
3. monthly presentations to parents—offered by an adult formation team.

The monthly classroom instruction and parent presentations will be separate, but simultaneous, following a meal provided to families in Dillenburg Hall at Our Lady of Peace Church. After the meal, at least one parent or guardian from each family will remain for their presentation, while the children will be dismissed with their teachers to their classrooms in Our Lady of Peace School. After their classroom instruction, the children will be brought back to Our Lady of Peace Church where their parents will collect them.

An added benefit of the *Family Formation* program is that it will be adaptable to the ever-changing Coronavirus situation. While the weekly family lessons are always in-home, the monthly classroom instruction and presentations to parents can be adapted using readily available technology to avoid social gatherings if necessary. This will ensure that instruction will not be interrupted should another safe-at-home order be issued.

You no doubt have questions and concerns about this new program—the curriculum, logistics, cost, teachers, staff, etc. To that end, we want to invite you to a Parent/Guardian Zoom Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on July 22. To join the meeting, go to [www.marshfieldfaithformation.org](http://www.marshfieldfaithformation.org) and follow the directions there on how to sign in.

As pastors of Our Lady of Peace, Sacred Heart & Corpus Christi, and St. John the Baptist, we want to share with you as much information as possible as we combine our efforts to hand on the faith to our children.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Douglas C. Robertson*

Very Rev. Douglas C. Robertson  
Our Lady of Peace

*Rev. Keith Kitzhaber*

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Sacred Heart & Corpus Christi

*Rev. James Weighner*

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