St. Patrick Parish

Faith Formation Ministry

140 Church St.

Portland, MI 48875

517-647-6505 Ext. 419

**MondayNightFaithFormation**

**January 2021**

Welcoming in 2021!

Well, we made it through 2020. Though not much has changed; there is still a virus, school doors are open, Mass is taking place, nobody in lockdown, and our faith is still strong. We have made it through about the first half of the school year. Many things have still had to happen. Faith formation is taking place, First Reconciliation preparation has taken place, service projects have been done, First Communion preparation will be taking place, and Confirmation preparation planning is taking place. We must thrive on and one way to do this is to keep moving forward with our faith.

May this Christmas season bring you great joy and peace. May you find in your heart whatever it is you are searching for and be granted with it by God. Know that you all are in my thoughts and prayers every day.

Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. “In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth” (Phil 2:10). Christ’s name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: “Before thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus.” It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means “Savior.” The very name bespeaks the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us. So, for this month, I challenge the students to find out what their name means. Many students may already know from previous years. If that is the case, have them find the meaning of someone else’s name in the family. Any student that sends this information to me will receive a free Slushie card.

**Gratitude**

***“Showing thanks and appreciation by what someone did for you”.*** Parents are to teach and challenge their children this throughout the month. However you choose to reward them for practicing this is up to you. If you contact me that your children were “caught in the act” displaying this, I will send them a free Slushie card.

First Reconciliation Preparation

****All second-grade parents should have received information regarding your child’s preparation for receiving this Sacrament. Students should also be completed with the “Signs of Grace” online program. Father and I will revisit this on how to handle the students receiving this Sacrament. We are still working out the best safe and healthy practices we can. You will receive all information needed in time.

**Forgive us for the times we have wronged others,**

**whether by ignorance, neglect, or intention.**

**Confirmation Information**

Information for preparation for this Sacrament has been sent out. If you did not receive it, please let me know. This year’s preparation will be done using the *“Chosen”* online program from Ascension Press. There are twelve lessons that the students will need to complete. There will be an outline to follow to help guide students through this process. It should not be difficult to complete one lesson in one week’s time. Sponsor information will also be sent out. This Sacrament will be celebrated here with Father Mike in the Spring of 2021. You will receive all information in time.

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**Service Project for January**

This month’s service project will be to donate to PSIC (Pregnancy Services of Ionia) . The Knights of Columbus will be having a collection at church the weekend of January 16 and 17. So you can easily bring your donations to Mass. PSIC will except items such as diapers(especially sizes 5 and 6), baby wipes, blankets, formula, care seats, and clothing for infants and small children. There will be Knights before and after each Mass in the back of the church on this weekend. The church is usually open every day until 7 pm, so you can just drop off items between now and then as well. Please consider donating what you can.

****If you contact me with what your family donated, you will be rewarded. In December I sent out four Slushie cards and I have plenty more to give.

*“The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.”*

(Luke 2:16-21)

January Birthdays to Celebrate

 9th- Ella Pohl 18th- Wade Dibean

 10th- Emily Leik 20th- James Feldpausch

 12th- Maggie Moore 27th- Chris Battley

 15th- Dominic Wendling 31st- Carter Vallier