

August 17, 2020

Dear St. Thomas More families,

A lot has been happening over the summer months at St. Thomas More. Our Faith Formation department has been restructured as the **Missionary Discipleship Team**. There are familiar faces, Emily Shackleton and Wendy Fischer, as well as some new faces, Andy Chmura and Greg Mohr. You might recognize Greg from his work with Sunday Masses, but now his focus is Missionary Discipleship. These shifts were beginning to happen before the Pandemic, but are now in place as we begin a new year.

This year of **Discipleship Formation** (formally called Faith Formation) will look very different from previous years. The Pandemic has forced us to rethink everything we do. We recognize that families are under a great deal of stress so we wanted to make our process this year very **simple** and **gentle** for everyone. We also want to help families grow as disciples of Jesus.

In this mailing you will find the registration form, calendars for the year and an outline of the "Game Plan" for this year (Andy really likes sports metaphors so we are going with it). There are several options, but the main change is that the entire household is the focus. We are striving to form households of discipleship. We think you will like this family centered approach. We are not striving to make parents become teachers, but instead, to invite and empower them to form their children as disciples. Our staff, catechists, and helpers will accompany families to give them the support they need during this challenging time. The parish is also providing strong formation and tools as we walk this year together.

There will be an orientation meeting on **Wednesday, September 23 at 6:15 pm in the church** for at least one parent from each household. This is an important meeting to set the stage for the year. Please be sure that at least one parent can attend. **If you are unable to attend, please let us know.**

If you or your child need to prepare for a sacrament, we will be having sacrament meetings on:

Confirmation- Monday, September 14 at 6:30 pm for parents. Candidates and sponsors are welcome to attend but not required.

First Reconciliation- Wednesday, September 16 at 6:15 pm for parents only in church.

Finally, if you are able to help accompany one or two families, please let us know. Also, if you would like to make this year's journey with one or two other families as a family "cluster" we are happy to help make that happen. We need to walk through this year together.

Know that you are in our prayers at this time. May God continue to bless us abundantly as we journey together to His Kingdom.

In Christ,

Blessings,

Emily Shackleton  
Missionary Discipleship Team  
Family and Children

Wendy Fischer  
Missionary Discipleship Team  
Operations

Faithfully,

In Jesus's Name,

Greg Mohr  
Missionary Discipleship Team  
Family and Adults

Andy Chmura  
Missionary Discipleship Team  
Family and Youth

Peace,

Dcn. Lincoln  
Pastoral Leader  
St. Thomas More

***P.S. I forgot one important detail. We will NOT be charging tuition this year for Discipleship Formation (except for the retreats and resources connected with the Sacraments). We are simplifying our supplies and are encouraging families and individuals to purchase a good Catholic Bible as the primary text. We will have some Bible recommendations at our orientation meeting. See you there!***