

ONE Catholic

Holy Family, Holy Trinity, Our Lady of the Lake, St. Mark & St. Mary

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well and that this new school year is off to a great start for you!

For those of you I haven't had the chance to meet yet, my name is Emily Kwiatkowski and I began as the Director of Discipleship and Mission for our Family of Parishes, Orleans Niagara East Catholic Community, or ONE Catholic, in the middle of August. I have been working with our Forming Disciples Pillar to get our 2023-2024 Faith Formation and Youth Ministry schedules and programming in place. Thank you for your patience!

Due to the structure of the diocesan initiative of Family of Parishes, and the large geographical size of our Family in particular, our desire is to cultivate and foster a deep and profound love for God, His Church and Sacraments, and to determine how to best support the needs of our people across ONE Catholic.

In light of the unifying of faith formation programming within our Family of Parishes, you have the option of registering for whatever time frame(s) works best for your family, regardless of which parish within ONE Catholic you are registered at. We tried to keep as much of the scheduling as we could the same as it was in previous years.

In order to try to best accommodate families, we will be holding Faith Formations in two locations on Sunday morning and two locations on Monday evening. The 2023-2024 School Year will be a transition and bridge year for us, as we continue to develop our programming for ONE Catholic. We value your feedback and will learn from each other as the year progresses. We are also in the process of hiring a Faith Formation Assistant. This will allow a staff member to always be present during Faith Formation to assist with questions, coordination, etc.

Our Faith Formation schedule for this year will be:

Holy Family, Albion:
Grades 1-12, Sundays, 9:05-10:20am

Holy Trinity, Medina
Grades 1-12, Sundays, 9:40-10:50am

Our Lady of the Lake, Barker:
Grades 1-5, Mondays, 6:00-7:10pm
Grades 6-12, 7:15-8:45pm

St. Mary's, Holley
Grades 1-5, Mondays, 6:00-7:10pm
Grades 6-12, 7:15-8:45pm

Grades 1-5 will be utilizing a textbook based curriculum, more info on that will be forthcoming. Each grade will have its own class, with one or two catechists (teachers) per class.

Grades 6-8 will utilize and participate in Edge and Grades 9-12 will use LifeTeen. Edge and LifeTeen are youth ministry-based programs which follow the guidelines and curriculum requirements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Unlike our elementary aged children who will be in grade level classrooms, our students in grades 6-8 will all be together, as will those in grades 9-12.

Sacramental Prep for First Reconciliation and First Communion (traditionally 2nd grade and 3rd grade, respectively) happens right during our regular class time. The curriculum shifts after the New Year to be able to provide in-class formation.

For our young people preparing to receive these Sacraments, it is expected that they will have completed at least one full year of Faith Formation immediately prior to the year of enrolling in Sacramental Prep. For example, children desiring to receive their First Reconciliation in 2nd grade must be enrolled in Faith Formation during 1st grade.

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Confirmation Prep, which is traditionally 11th grade in this area, will be a series of separate classes beginning after the New Year. Confirmation classes will be held Family-wide over the course of eight (8) sessions. Students preparing for Confirmation are expected to attend Faith Formation classes, the eight sessions of proximate preparation and one retreat. The location and times of the eight classes will be determined by what works best for the majority of families, after registration has concluded. Students should be enrolled in Faith Formation classes for two years before beginning their final year of prep, (typically 9th, 10th, and 11th grade, with Confirmation in the spring of 11th grade.)

Finally, we will be offering High School youth ministry opportunities twice a month that rotate between locations. This is a chance for our high schoolers to come together from across ONE Catholic for social, community and spiritual opportunities. From movie nights to ice cream, and ice skating to service projects. We'll meet two Sunday evenings per month, with additional opportunities added as they arise.

There will be Parent/Guardian Meetings during the First Session at all locations, please plan to stay for the duration of class that day.

You will also see dates highlighted in the schedule. These are dates of Parent Sessions. Please plan for at least one parent/guardian to stay for the duration of class on those dates.

We will also be offering four Family Events/Workshops over the course of the year. More information will be distributed as we get closer to each event. We encourage you to attend as many of these as a Family as you can. They are open to families with children of all ages!

Included with this letter (or as an attachment) you will find complete schedules for each of our Faith Formation locations, First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation retreats, Sacrament info and a registration form.

Completed registration forms may be dropped off at any of the Parish Offices, emailed to ekwiatkowski@onecatholic.org or mailed to:

ONE Catholic
C/O Holy Family Parish
Attn: Emily Kwiatkowski
106 South Main Street
Albion, NY 14411

Registration forms are due by October 10th.

We are also in need of additional catechists, assistants, core team members (middle and high school) and office helpers during Faith Formation classes. If you may be interested, please let me know and we can set-up a time to chat about options and see if one of our programs might be a good fit for you!

I am looking forward to meeting you and your families and journeying with each of you this year. Please don't hesitate to reach out if there is ever anything you need, you have questions, concerns or ideas!

Peace and all good,

Emily Kwiatkowski
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