

## Church of St. Anthony

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to another year of faith formation for our youth. The Church of St. Anthony's Faith Formation program registration is now underway! I am excited to engage our youth in their Catholic faith and bring them closer to God through our faith formation program this year! We aim to do that through fun and prayer in the classroom, which will be supplemented by Mass and other activities designed to encourage the youth to embrace their faith.

There will be a couple changes this year to the faith formation program, with a bigger change next year with the Confirmation program. Changes for this year include a new requirement for the online program and small changes for the Confirmation program. For next year: after much prayerful thought and consideration it has been decided to make preparation for Confirmation into a two-year program, starting in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and ending in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, **starting next year**. Please be assured that this decision was not made lightly. It is our hope that this will be a positive change to the Confirmation program that will benefit our young people.

Also new this year is the option to enroll online! Follow this link to enroll online: <https://goo.gl/forms/7U66aVchTo5iq36g1>. You can also find this link on the parish website ([www.stanthonywatkins.com](http://www.stanthonywatkins.com)).

There are 2 options for enrollment: a traditional Wednesday night program and an online course.

The traditional Wednesday night program will run throughout the school year from 6:30-7:30 p.m. with classroom instruction and activities, and Masses held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at the church at 6:45. On Mass day students should report to their classrooms before Mass at 6:30. Classes will be held in the Parish Center as well as in the rectory. In the event of school closings due to inclement weather, faith formation classes for that evening will be cancelled as well.

In consideration that it is sometimes not possible for your children to attend the traditional Wednesday night class, we once again will be offering online classes. The online Faith Formation program is available for students in Grades 1-6 & 8-9. The online program is not an option for 10<sup>th</sup> Grade (Confirmation) or 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (Theology of the Body). The online option is for families that are not able to attend the traditional Wednesday night classes and for families that want to have more responsibility for the faith formation of their children. You can find more information about the online program

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in the enclosed “online faith formation agreement letter”. To be eligible for the online program you must be either new to the online program or have completed the online program as well as the additional requirements, the year before. In addition, starting this year, to be considered for the online program you must submit an explanation as to why you believe that the online program is the best fit for your family. Anyone who was enrolled in the online program but has not completed the course and extra requirements from the previous year will not be eligible to enroll in the online program for this next year.

**Cost:** \$50 per student, maximum of \$150 per family. The cost is due with this form by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. ***No child will be refused because of financial reasons!***

**Volunteers:** We have then need of more volunteers. Please prayerfully consider being part of our Faith Formation program! Also as a volunteer, you will have the opportunity this year to use your biannual “gifts” from the parish to pay for all/some of your families’ registration fees. Please indicate your wish to do this on the registration form and I will contact you to discuss your options.

**Registering:** Please return the registration forms and payments by mail, the Sunday collection or bring to the parish office. Registration can also be dropped off at the Eden Valley Elementary School open house. Registrations are due August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**\*Faith Formation Communications:**

E-mail will be the main source of communication. Please be sure to include your best email on your registration form. You will be emailed about any changes to the schedule and about upcoming events. An updated schedule will be also posted on the parish’s website.

**Faith Formation Class Rules**

Students may not arrive at their classrooms before 6:15.

Hallway monitors will stop running, yelling, and unnecessary movement. Hallway monitors will supervise any student removed from class and help teachers lock up.

A student who misbehaves will be removed from the classroom. The parents will be notified and the student will not be allowed back into class unless accompanied by one parent for the next entire class period. If the parents are too busy to attend, the child will remain home until the parent finds time to attend.

Group and activity pictures may be posted on our website or our Facebook page throughout the year – please notify the office in writing if you prefer that your child NOT be included in such photos.

We are looking forward to working with you and your children in the coming year! As always please contact me for any questions or concerns.

Jessica Teicher, Director of Faith Formation