

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our year of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry! Our Church Community, and all who minister as catechists, look forward to your family's participation. We are eager to share experiences and provide opportunities that will help your child become stronger in our Catholic faith and ultimately strengthening each family's faith journey.



Here is a summary of the what we have planned for the coming year of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry. **Please note the changes:**

- Just as last year, Faith Formation classes for all students in the three linked parishes, grades 2 through 8, will meet at St. Mary's in Guttenberg, **from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM**, usually every other Sunday, from **Sunday, September 16th, 2018 through Sunday, April 14th, 2019**. Please check the attached schedule as there are exceptions to the calendar. A good rule of thumb: **Follow the schedule**. Just as last year, this schedule will allow students to attend mass with their parents, at their own parish.
- **Youth Ministry 1** classes will be held for freshmen and sophomore students who attend St. Mary's and Immaculate Conception. The classes will use the same calendar as the Faith Formation students.
- **Youth Ministry 2** classes will be held for juniors and seniors students who attend St. Mary's and Immaculate Conception. **Youth Ministry 2 classes will meet once a month**. The length of the class has been reduced from four hours to three per class. The class schedule runs from **Sunday, September 16th, 2018 through Sunday, April 14th, 2019, with an added class on Friday, April 19th to practice and perform the Living Stations**. This schedule allows students to attend mass with their parents at their own parish.
- **This school year's schedules are attached**. They are also available on the church website: [maryicjoseph.org](http://maryicjoseph.org).
- **St. Joseph's high school students** will continue to meet on their own schedule which is set up by their Youth Ministry teachers, and will **not** be included in the Sunday morning program, but they are encouraged to make weekend Mass attendance a part of their faith life. Youth Ministry teachers will contact their students with the schedule based on registration
- **First Communion will be on Saturday, April 27 at St. Joseph's, and Sunday, April 28 at Immaculate Conception and St. Mary's, with Bread Making on Saturday, April 6th**.
- Attendance at Mass is included in the program for all students. Students are welcome to attend Mass at alternate times. All students must complete a homily summary and submit it to their Faith Formation Teacher at the next class meeting. Faith Formation students are invited to sit with their teachers during Mass, unless they are attending with their families.
- **Faith Formation fees will be \$50/family plus a book fee of \$10/child**. Contact Deacon Pfaffly if you need help with registration and book fees.
- The registration forms are attached and also available on our Church website ([www.maryicjoseph.org](http://www.maryicjoseph.org)). Please submit completed forms and registration fees by mailing them to: **Deacon Jim Pfaffly, PO Box 488, Guttenberg, Iowa 52052-0488**, or by dropping them off at the St. Mary Immaculate Conception School Office no later than **September 3rd**.

Yours in Christ,

Father Marvin Bries  
Pastor

Deacon Jim Pfaffly  
Faith Formation Leader

Joanne Hedemann  
Principal

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