



St. Felix, Wabasha

St. Agnes, Kellogg

Roman Catholic Parishes

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Updated August 20, 2024

To the parents of St. Felix and St. Agnes Parishes,

Greetings, and welcome back to another year of Faith Formation! For those of you to whom I have not yet been introduced, my name is Patrick Derleth, and I am the new Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry here at the parishes. Given Fr. Prince's absence, I have taken it upon myself to write the introductory letter this year, under the direction of Deacon John and the parish staff. We continue to pray for Fr. Prince and his family during this difficult time, and we hope he will return to us soon.

Since my arrival on August 6th, the parish staff and I have been hard at work preparing for Faith Formation this fall. Special thanks are due to Heather Bergan, Kathy Munns, Deacon John and Nancy Hust, Marsha Stenzel, Sharon Riester, James and Katherine Hust, Nathaniel King, and Dennis Hetrick for their invaluable support and feedback. They have truly made my transition into this position quite seamless, and I pray earnestly that our Faith Formation programs this year will bear great fruit because of their help.

I know that last year's program presented many challenges given the lack of staff and resources, namely the home catechesis program for K-6th graders, reduced meeting schedule for 7-10th graders, and late start to the program overall. I have tried to take these changes into account during my first week in this position, and I believe that our team here at the parish has put together a program that will hopefully rectify some of the problems caused by these challenges.

To that end, I am excited to announce that our introductory Faith Formation meetings will take place this year on **Wednesday, September 11th**, with the schedule and attendance requirements as follows:

- **6:30-7:15 p.m.** K-6th Parents- Holy Family Room, St. Felix Parish
 - Mandatory for at least one parent
- **7:15-8:00 p.m.** 7-10th Parents and Students- Gym, St. Felix School
 - Mandatory for at least one parent and student(s)
- **8:00-8:15 p.m.** Additional Confirmation Meeting- 10th Grade Parents and Students (remain in the gym)

The meetings will cover the curriculum, program requirements, and calendar for each cohort and address any questions that you, the parents, may have regarding the program this year. (You will notice that there are some changes when you look at the calendar.) If, for some reason, you or your student(s) cannot attend, please notify me as soon as possible, either via

email (faith@felixagnes.org) or the parish office phone (above), so I can work with you to provide you with this information.

Next, on a mission-related and pastoral note, I want to reiterate something Fr. Prince included in last year's letter, which is also addressed in our Code of Conduct. At that time, Fr. Prince wrote:

"To ensure your child receives the most from this program, it is imperative that parents, catechists, and the [Director of Faith Formation] all work together as a team. Parents are, first and foremost, the primary educators of their children. It is from you that they learn about their faith, love, and forgiveness. Parent involvement is crucial in the growth and enrichment of your child's faith."

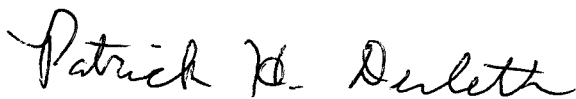
This fact, rooted in *Catechism* paragraph 2226 (which I would encourage you to read in its entirety), applies as much today as it did a year ago. As Director of Faith Formation, I am confident that the catechists and I desire to work with you throughout this catechetical year and make the entire process run as smoothly and seamlessly as possible. We, like you, desire what is best for your children, and want to bring them closer to Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church as a means to that end. We, however, cannot accomplish this without your cooperation and support, especially outside of Faith Formation classes. To that end, we ask that parents please make a sincere commitment to:

- Attend Sunday Mass regularly and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- Help reinforce your child's lessons and prayers at home.
- Ensure that your child attends Faith Formation classes regularly.

Having said all that, you will find the registration form for the 2024-2025 school year in this envelope, alongside the Code of Conduct and program calendar. Please return the completed forms (if you have not already) along with payment during or before the meetings on **Wednesday, September 11th**. Forms can also be mailed to the Parish Office (address above), dropped in the collection basket, or turned in to the Parish Office. Any additional questions can also be directed to me via email or phone.

Thank you all for your interest in your children's religious education, and I look forward to meeting you all on the 11th.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. Derleth
Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
faith@felixagnes.org