



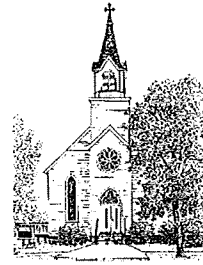
St. Felix, Wabasha

St. Agnes, Kellogg

Roman Catholic Parishes

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August 4, 2025

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

Greetings, and welcome back to another year of Faith Formation! I am delighted to be with you all once again as I enter my second year of working here at the parishes. The kindness and generosity that I have received here over the last year have been truly amazing, and I am deeply grateful to you all for your support.

As many of you know, this past year has, by the grace of God, been filled with several important achievements in the realm of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry. In addition to returning all grades to in-person instruction, we were also able to establish a monthly Youth Group for students in grades 7-12 that has led to a series of successful weekly activities over the summer. In turn, in July alone, the parishes were able to send 10 high schoolers to the Steubenville-Rochester Catholic youth conference, as well as eight middle schoolers to Camp Summit, the diocesan summer adventure camp. These numbers are on par with, if not larger than, what many other parishes in our diocese were able to accomplish, and so I am once again grateful for both the students' willingness to attend and the support of the parishes and parish organizations in helping them overcome any financial obstacles.

Of course, while we are thankful for these successes, our work is naturally far from over. The need to catechize our youth and invite them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ remains as high as ever, as the pressures of school, social media, athletics, etc. try to distract them from their Catholic faith, the only thing that can truly ground and sustain them. At the same time, the catechists and I also recognize that the answer to this problem is not merely more textbooks, more reading, and more instruction, but rather an engaging, multifaceted Faith Formation curriculum that conveys the truths of the faith through discussion, service, and prayer. Heading into this year, then, our primary focus will be the implementation of a new curriculum that better serves the needs of our parents and students, both now and for the foreseeable future.

To discuss some of these curriculum developments, review the program requirements and calendar for each cohort, and answer any questions you may have as parents, I ask that you attend our annual introductory Faith Formation meetings, which will take place this year on **Wednesday, September 3rd in the St. Felix Gym** at the following times:

- **6:30-7:15 p.m.** K-6th Parents
 - Mandatory for at least one parent (student attendance optional)
- **7:15-8:00 p.m.** 7-10th Parents and Students
 - Mandatory for at least one parent (preferably both parents) and student(s)
- **8:00-8:15 p.m.** Additional Confirmation Meeting- 10th Grade Parents and Students (remain in the gym)

If, for some reason, you or your student(s) cannot attend, please notify me as soon as possible so I can work with you to provide you with the information you will miss.

Lastly, on a mission-related and pastoral note, I want to reiterate that even the best curriculum, resources, and catechists end up being completely and utterly useless without one key component: parental cooperation. As you know, and as is alluded to in our program Code of Conduct, "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children.... Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith" (CCC 2223, 2226). As Director of Faith Formation, I know, having come to know many of you and learn about your schedules, that this is easier said than done, and that how this is best accomplished is not always clear. Please know, however, that the catechists and I plan to do our best, especially this year, to provide you with the tools that will allow you to engage with your child(ren) about what they are learning in class (and perhaps even learn something from them in return). We are here to serve as a resource to you as you lead your child(ren) in their faith journey. Ultimately, however, it is up to you as a parent to utilize these resources to your child(ren)'s benefit and set a powerful example that only you can provide. To that end, we ask that parents please make a sincere commitment to:

- Bring your children to Sunday Mass regularly and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- Help reinforce your child's lessons and prayers at home (especially those provided).
- Ensure that your child attends Faith Formation classes regularly.

With that, you will find the registration forms for the 2025-2026 academic year in this envelope (or email), alongside the Code of Conduct and program calendar. Please return the completed forms, on paper or online, along with payment during or before the meeting on **Wednesday, September 3rd**. 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 (below) or phone (above).

Please note that, due to a change in diocesan policy, all students looking to be confirmed in the spring of 2027 must enroll in Faith Formation this year as part of the Confirmation I class (9th grade). This year's 10th graders will be the last cohort with only one year of pre-Confirmation prep.

Similarly, if you decide not to enroll your child(ren) in Faith Formation this year, I ask that you please take a brief minute to tell us why via the attached survey, to provide the parishes with feedback and help us update our records.

Thank you all once again for your interest in the religious education of your children, and I look forward to seeing you on the 3rd.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. Derleth
Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry
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