

Parents are the principal and first educators of their children in life. So too in the ways of faith. As the domestic church, you have shared with your child endless examples of love, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, empathy, caring, patience, trust.... You do not shoulder this responsibility alone. The pastor, catechists and parish community are all members of your formation team, assisting you in passing on the faith. I invite you to assess your role on that team. Only you can personally answer where you are in your own faith journey and how you're doing. If perhaps it has been a while since you've taken part an active faith life, we are here to welcome you back and help you as needed to re-engage in your journey and so you can continue to be an example of living faith for your child while enriching yourself. You are invited and encouraged to attend any class, Special Presentations, share in service and the celebration of Mass with your Candidate.

Worship: The Faith Formation classes are not a "stand alone" program. The candidate is expected to faithfully attend Sunday Liturgy regularly in addition to attending classes. Your child's journey of Initiation into the Catholic faith began at their Baptism. Long before they understood the Mass, you brought them. In the pew they mimicked you because *if you were doing it*, it must be right and important! The graces the Sacrament of Reconciliation; of Sunday Liturgy with receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist, feeds us, mind, body and soul for the challenges of the week ahead. The Sacrament of Confirmation will complete the Initiation process by empowering them to take on an adult active role in the building up of the Body of Christ by evangelizing to those they encounter daily by reflecting God's love in their actions and words. Faith Formation continues as a lifelong process. *Faith Formation Graduation Day* is meeting God face to face!

During this unprecedented time of Pandemic, we understand everyone is not capable of attending Mass in person. Although there is no longer a dispensation by Bishop Cote to stay home, St Pius X Ch will continue to Live Stream the 9am Sunday Liturgy on the parish Facebook page until further notice for those who are unable. The Pastor is willing to train individuals to bring the Eucharist to the Home Bound "in your bubble". The streamed Mass then becomes a recording, for watching later as needed. Attending Liturgy is a great opportunity to invite your Family and Sponsor to take part in the journey and attend with you. Participation by candidates in taking an active part in the Mass is encouraged, welcomed, and Altar Serving is a great way to give back!

Faith Formation: Is a blending of the knowledge of faith, as well as building a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. We put the "God Names" to the examples you have shared with them at home and the life lessons of the Scriptures proclaimed in Church. Opportunities continue for students to learn, discuss, experience with their peers, Rites, prayer, history, creed, retreats, and service while in formal classes and Youth Ministry Events. **A schedule of Virtual Classes & Special Presentations is attached and on the Website. An email reminder and class invite link through ZOOM will be sent on Thursday to the PARENT EMAIL for the upcoming class. During class the camera MUST remain on with the student's head, face shoulders showing in a common room with the lights on.** Assignments will occasionally be given to further enhance the lesson. If the candidate is unable to attend class for any reason, a **parent** must call or email prior to the start of class for it to be considered excused. Please leave a complete message including student's full name and reason for not attending. **Missed Special Presentations: A similar topical assignment will be given. The candidate can expect to allow the same length of time for researching and writing a conclusion report of the assignment which is due upon their return to the following class.**

Youth Ministry & Events: St Pius X Ch has made this ongoing commitment in support of our Youth, during a time of their life when extra support is needed in a fast-paced world. Add the time of Pandemic to that mix, leaving many to feel isolated and alone. Youth Ministry provides opportunities for teens with their peers, to build relationships and community, while making connections creating a catholic culture in discovering many aspects of living the faith beyond the classroom and church. Catholic Social Teaching, Current Event Topics, Service, Prayer experiences, CYFM Retreats & Mission Trips. With current restrictions, *how we gather* may look differently, while many activities can be carried out virtually or in controlled small groups. *YOUTH INPUT* on what we do is always taken into consideration and encouraged! Adults are welcomed to volunteer on the Youth Ministry Events Team as well, whether for one event, some, or all events. Please contact me for more information! Their formation journey continues just as it has for yourself, in their choosing to participate as an active member in the life of the parish, adult ministries, programs and events. **SIGN UP GENIUS** will be used for events sent to parent email

Cancelled due to inclement weather Cancellation will appear on the following **Station websites** after 1:00pm under the heading of **CHURCH:** WTIC-1080AM; WFSB, Channel 3; WTNH; Channel 8, and WVIT Channel 30. Each offers notification alerts if you choose to sign up. They do not always list CHURCH Closings on the TV Screen Ribbons.

***Volunteer Community Service: This year, due to the pandemic** we (Dio of Norwich) ask that the number of hours be lifted for suitability for Confirmation. Each candidate is encouraged to do a service project at home and share their experience with the parish. A Service Signature form found on the **parish website**. Return the Service Signature form to Faith Formation Office as Service is completed. **CYR1 Bakes for and Hosts the Sacrament of Confirmation Reception. Parent Help is Needed!**

***Selecting a Confirmation Sponsor:** See website for the explanation of guidelines for selecting a Sponsor, and the Sponsor Information Sheet is to be completed and returned by November 1st. *NOTE: Parents cannot be their own child's Sponsor.*

***Confirmation Retreats:** Confirmation Year-One is held here at St. Pius X Church, which will be put on by Faith Formation Retreat Team. **THIS WILL BE VIRTUAL THIS YEAR.** Any student who is unable to attend due to a schedule conflict (advance notice required); or is sick the day of our retreat, will need to experience a Confirmation Year-One Retreat through another parish program at their own expense and transportation. The coordinator will make every effort to help parents locate an acceptable Confirmation Retreat within the Diocese of Norwich, however the later it is in the year, the fewer options may be available to you.

Evangelization & Welcoming Others: If you know of an Adult or Youth who is interested in the Roman Catholic faith or perhaps, they recently returned having been away from the Church and now wishes to complete their Sacraments of Initiation, please have them contact the **Friary Office 860-347-4441**. Our team looks forward to working with you and anticipates a great year ahead!