

Joanne Russell

From: Joanne Russell <joanne.russell@stmarysimsbury.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2022 5:36 PM
To: joanne.russell@stmarysimsbury.org
Subject: Faith Formation Meets on Sunday (11/13) - Teaching Mass

Dear Parents,

This weekend the 9th and 10th graders will meet on Sunday evening for Faith Formation. We will meet in the church and will celebrate Mass together. Father Stephen will be celebrating a "Teaching Mass" which is a unique opportunity for our teenagers to learn about our many Catholic traditions during Mass. Father will stop Mass periodically to explain why he does certain things or what is happening at that time during Mass.

Here are a few examples of things Father Stephen will go over:

- Before Mass starts, Fr. Stephen will point out things in the church and explain their meaning (narthex, nave, ambo, tabernacle, etc.)
- When Mass starts, why does the priest kiss the altar?
- What are the different parts of the Mass?
- Why do we kneel, stand and sit for different parts of the Mass?
- What are the different vessels and vestments that we see at Mass?
- Why do we make the sign of the cross?
- What is the collect (not collection of money . . . but an invitation "Let Us Pray")
- How are the readings selected for each Mass?

I invite all parents and siblings to attend this Mass. I attended the teaching Mass last year and enjoyed re-learning many of the things I was taught as a teenager. If you are available to attend I think you will find it time well spent and very rewarding.

When your teenager arrives, please have them "check-in" at the tables in the Magowan Center. This way I can have an accurate attendance before Mass starts.

If you child is unable to attend this Mass, please let me know ahead of time.

Make-Up Work

I have been sending emails to those students who have missed class. Our expectation is that students miss no more than two classes. **Please have your teenager bring in their make-up work on Sunday or email the worksheet back to me directly.** If you misplaced the links and the worksheets, you can visit our HS website to get the information. Here is the link: <https://stmarysimsbury.org/hs>

I look forward to seeing the teenagers this weekend and I hope to see many of you as well.

Blessings,
Joanne Russell