

## FAITH FORMATION BOARD MEETING

December 3, 2024

**YOUTH GROUP:** Youth were encouraged to help with leaf raking day. Advent wreath making & stuffing bags for STM students went well, with 30-ish people (youth + families, some new families). This weekend youth will host Adoration, then there'll be a break until the Epiphany party in January.

**CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION:** There's Safe Environment training this Sunday. Also Sacrament Prep lunch after 11:00 mass Sunday. Theology on tap did not go well, no young adults, so we won't do this anymore. Matt Duey is starting a chapter of the Society of Christian Scientists, along with undergrads from STM.

**SMALL GROUPS** were the primary topic of the meeting, following up on the interest survey suggested by the board in the fall. We talked about how to start and facilitate small faith-sharing groups. Cory would like each member of the group to help begin a small group, then it could be handed off to another leader (or not, if you want to keep doing it). We have names and email addresses for people from the survey, so you start by emailing people to arrange an initial meeting. Then potential members can talk about meeting times and places and decide what to do.

A member said her spouse might be interested in a group discussing books and/or current issues.

Another member would like to be part of a group that does adoration, prayer, and/or rosary. For her, a group needs to meet after 6pm, or before Mass.

A member expressed an interest in Taizé Prayer (*an evening prayer for all Christian faiths, which includes meditative song, prayerful silence, and short readings, done by candlelight*)

The youth member has plenty to do but would like a study hall or community center—a drop-in place to be with others while doing homework or projects.

Another suggested having good snacks.

The list of possible groups on the survey was very broad. We should consider what the groups are for. We already have many service groups and social gatherings; new people could be directed to these. However, you see the same group of people in all the groups, and at the regular events. The purpose of the groups is to connect people. Common interests can be a starting point to build community. People who've been here a long time might feel tied in, but others may feel lonely and disconnected. Fr. Steve reminds the staff often that people come for the community.