

A joyful WORD

Newsletter of Holy Family Parish & St. Joseph Church

September 2022

Join Holy Family and St. Joseph Church in New & Revamped Programs for 2022-23

Faith Formation - Grades K-10



After much prayer and conversation with others, Father Slezak has decided to join the churches' programs together and to take on

a more active role. "I feel that out of all the things I am required to do as a pastor, the involvement with the faith development of the youth is of the utmost importance."

Father has invited Mrs. Joan Simon, a parishioner, who comes with years of experience in Catholic education, to assist in bringing the program to Parish youth. Father comments, they will be running the program, but it is really the parents who are the "first teachers of the faith." Parents are the ones who create a loving and safe family atmosphere through their love for God and mankind. Children need to be taught by word and example how to live and function in the society. For this reason, a parental component will be added in order to help parents in their responsibility of raising their children in the Catholic Faith.

So how will this work? One Sunday each month there will be special parental session held. These classes are scheduled for the first Sunday of the month with the exception of October. On these nine Sundays, a parent(s) will come with your their children to class. Father, or another qualified person, will teach a lesson on a particular topic, which can include watching a video from a reputable Catholic source. Following the brief lesson, parents will gather in small groups and discuss the topic and how it applies to their own lives. Parents are most welcome and encouraged to come every week and sit with their children, but they are only required to come once a month. The

hope is that through scheduled sessions, parents will come to know and understand the truth of the Catholic Faith in a deeper way.

What about the children? There are 26 classes of Faith Formation scheduled, all of which will take place on a Sunday morning. All students are expected to attend, along with Sunday Holy Mass/Holy Days of Obligation.

•Grades 1-6 will be using the "Family Formation Program," a family-based program catechetical program. The children will be grouped into sections; Grades 1-3 will be in one class and Grades 4-6 in another.

•Grades 7/8 will learn about the Bible. They will be exposed to both the Old and New Testament. The TV series, "The Chosen" will be used to help the children better grasp the Bible, especially the New Testament.

Confirmation Classes will be using the curriculum of Catholic Social Teaching over the next two years. Catholic Social Teaching is the Church's application of the Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy as well as the Ten Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. To help them integrate what they learned, students in Grades 9-10 are required to do ten (10) hours of community service as part of their Confirmation Faith Formation Program (total of 20 hours over the two years).

Father Slezak would like to invite parents to a meeting on September 13th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the parish gym. He will chat more about this year and answer any questions. He humbly invites parents to return. They will be welcomed without any judgment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Father at phone: 315-823-3410 or email: brian.slezak@rcda.org.

Chant Schola 2022-23 Program

Holy Family Parish has revamped the Chant Schola program, a traditional Catholic Chant School, with a concentration in vocal techniques and Gregorian Chant Theory.

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Instructor Colleen Rockwell will teach two class sessions on *every other* Saturday from September 17 to November 12 at Holy Family Parish, 763 E. Main Street in Little Falls, NY. All ages are welcome to participate and classes are

free and open to the public.

Sacri Hymni et Oration will focus on families learning to chant some of the most beautiful Sacred Hymns and Prayers of the Catholic Church while learning proper vocal techniques and basic Gregorian Chant Theory. Classes will meet from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. **Sacra Liturgia** will focus on growth in musical knowledge, vocal skill, and appreciation for Traditional Sacred Liturgy. Class will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Also in the works is A Chant Camp of Prayer, and a 2023 Workshop. For all program information, please email: cmrockwell@protonmail.com or to enroll visit the website: <https://chantschola.org> or call (315) 823-3410.

Becoming Catholic Program



Holy Family welcomes all those who are new to the faith, the unbaptized or baptized, those that have not yet

been confirmed in the Church, and also those who are simply just searching for God to the RCIA (Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults) program.

The RCIA process introduces individuals to the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. It helps them to explore what it means to be a Christian; and prepares them to enter fully into the community of faith through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Becoming Catholic is more than just learning scripture and rituals, it's discovering how to be a disciple of the Lord. Components include: Education, Prayer, Personal Application, and Community Awareness.

Although it is encouraged to attend classes, not all people can set aside time to study the Faith through a formal program that meets a set time each week. Special learning needs, scheduling conflicts, traveling and job requirements, etc., should not prevent an individual from participating in RCIA.

If you would like to live a life of faith, love, and justice in communion with Catholics throughout the world, please contact Fr. Brian Slezak for guidance at phone: (315) 823-3410 or email: brian.slezak@rcda.org.

A Message from Fr. Brian Slezak

When Bishop Scharfenberger announced that the Traditional Latin Mass (Usus Antiquior) Mass would be moved from Holy Family to the Auriesville Shrine during the summer months, I was relieved that he was supportive of the UA Mass, but I knew it would entail a lot more work on our part.

For starters, the Shrine is 35 miles from Little Falls. Secondly, since the Shrine does not have regular UA Masses, this meant we would have to bring everything needed, i.e. vestments, altar cards, linens etc. To make matters worse, scheduling conflicts meant that we could not use the Coliseum every Sunday, so we would have to use the outdoor Martyr's Chapel—rife with dust and critters.



Our first weekend there was very revealing. Mass started quite late. I forgot to bring several items. I had to

shout my homily. Our makeshift candles dripped hot wax over the linens. People complained it was dusty. I cannot recall exactly, but I am sure it was hot because I remember the ceiling fan squeaking the entire Mass.

Over the weeks, things slowly started coming together. Someone was assigned to sweep the floors prior to Mass. Men built a suitable platform for the altar. We installed faux-stained glass window coverings over the clear windows, a sound system was purchased, candles were borrowed from St. Joseph's, new linens were draped over the altar, and a Holy Water font was set up. We even managed to pull off a weekly potluck social in the Pavilion!

One of the blessings of having the Mass at the Shrine is that it attracted a lot more people, some of whom had never been to a Latin Mass before. It was refreshing to see so many young families, as well as pilgrims of every age and background coming to give glory to God on the hallowed grounds.

As the summer winds to a close, I look back with a sense of accomplishment. I am so very grateful to everyone who volunteered to make sure a beautiful and edifying Mass occurred every Sunday. I also want to thank the staff at the Auriesville Shrine who made us feel most welcome and did not ask for a penny from our collection.

I know in my heart that God will continue to provide for the Usus Antiquior Mass. Although it was a blessing being at the Shrine, I look forward to returning to Holy Family on Sunday, October 9th at Noon. I hope you can join us too. 