

2016 in Christian Formation: A Year of

➤ Celebrations

- Communion Retreat
- Baptism, Confirmation, Reception
- Graduating Seniors
- Vacation Bible School “The Peaceable Kingdom”
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Trunk or Treat
- Advent Event
- The Living Nativity

➤ Farewells

- The Rev. Liz Parker, Catechist and Director of Christian Formation
- Gigi Janeshek, Adm. Asst. for Christian Formation
- Other Catechists and formation participants

➤ Faithfulness

- Sunday morning formation teachers, Catechists and participants
- Leaders of Bible, book, prayer and spiritual growth small groups and participants
- Safeguarding God’s Children/People coordinator Lauren Crim, trainer Ryan Crim and participants
- Volunteers for our special events

➤ Challenge

In Fr. Mark’s sermon on Sunday, January 8, he spoke of our baptism as the beginning of our lifelong learning about how to live a life as a follower of Jesus. One of the primary roles of the Church is to nurture spiritual growth in children, youth and adults. St. Timothy’s has a long history of providing outstanding formation programs on Sunday morning. As Fr. Mark also mentioned in his sermon, dramatic changes in family and community life over the past several years have impacted the frequency of attendance for Sunday morning church offerings. We at St. Timothy’s have experienced significant decline in participation in our Sunday morning formation program for the past two years.

Your Christian Formation leaders (Fr. Mark, Youth Minister Stephanie Townes, Youth Coordinator Chris Weis and I) are committed to supporting individuals and families in their lives in Christ. In this new year, a year of transition, it is clear that we are called to reimagine our approach to Christian Formation. Not the “what” of formation, for we are blessed with the treasures of scripture, tradition and reason and the lens of our Baptismal Covenant, but the “how” and the “when” and the “where,” in order to fulfill our commitment to you, your family and your children.

➤ Discernment

- Increase communication and coordination with our Youth Program to facilitate planning for families.
- Develop a plan to increase awareness of the formative aspects of a number of our ministries such as Acolytes and others who serve in worship, Children's Choir, Joiful Noyse and others.
- Explore options and new ideas such as online learning and periodic formation events for children and families.
- Develop a prayerful, intentional discernment group in the near future to begin the process of reimagining our Christian Formation program for Children and Families. Do you feel called to join in this endeavor? Contact me.

Faithfully,

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