



HOLY FAMILY AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Area Office: 512 Black Oak Ave, Montevideo MN 56265 • 320-269-5954 • www.holyfamilyarea.org

St. Andrew
450 11th Ave
Granite Falls MN 56241

St. Clara
414 N Main St
Clara City MN 56222

St. James
1012 Locust Street
Dawson MN 56232

St. Joseph
512 Black Oak Ave
Montevideo MN 56265

August 6, 2017

Dear St. James Faith Formation Families,

We would like to share an update of the plan for the 2017-2018 Faith Formation year at St. James and in the Holy Family Area Catholic Community.

First, we would like to share with you the results of the survey that was sent out in April about adjusting the time of classes at St. James to help make it a more optimal time for the kids to learn as well as getting catechists to volunteer to share our faith. The surveys suggested that we go with the following option, so this year classes will be at these times:

Grade 1-3 – Wednesday - 2:00-2:50 PM

Grade 4-9 – Wednesday - 6:30-7:45 PM

Grade 10-11 – Wednesday - 6:45-8:00 PM at St. Joseph, Montevideo

We understand that this will be a big change for the Grades 4-6, but we agree with the surveys that it will be a good change.

Second, since Deacon Bob's resignation I have met with the Coordinators of Faith Formation (FF), Christina Wangen and Ann Voller, several times to discuss what would be the best setup for the Coordinator of FF at St. James and at St. Clara. We discussed many different options and came up with what we think will be a very good setup. We decided that it would be best to have Ann Voller, the Coordinator of FF at St. Joseph's, also be the Coordinator of FF and Youth Ministry at St. James. We have expanded her hours so that she is able to serve you well. Christina Wangen will continue to be the Area Lead Coordinator of FF and Youth Ministry, and this year she will also be the Coordinator of FF and Youth Ministry at St. Clara's, and she will also be in charge of the RCIA classes.

We acknowledge that change is not easy and that Christina has built many relationships at St. James and will dearly miss working directly with all the students, parents and catechists, but we think that Ann will do a good job at St. James and that you will like her as well. There were several reasons contributed to our decision. First, the 10th and 11th graders have been going to St. Joseph's for Theology of the Body and Confirmation classes these last 2 years, so this will be simpler in that St. James parents will work with one person no matter which grades their children are in instead of having 2 different ones like the last 2 years. Second, Christina is taking on RCIA classes this year, so the drive to Clara City is half the amount of travel time for her as the drive to Dawson, which will give her a little more time each week for RCIA. Third, we hope to get Youth Ministry going at St. James and that's more do-able for Ann than for Christina given the distance. Ann already helped with Vacation Bible School at St. James this summer and is really looking forward to meeting each of you and working with you!

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We really believe that this will be a good setup for our parishes and will serve our families well. Ann has done a great job coordinating FF and Youth Ministry at St. Joseph's, so we know you are in good hands. If you would like to contact Ann to welcome her or to ask her questions about this upcoming year, you can call her at (320) 226-5205, or email her at sjocoordinator@holyfamilyarea.org. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to contact me. Thank you!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Paul" followed by a stylized, cursive flourish.

Fr. Paul Timmerman

Pastor