

Dear St. Jerome Parish and School Families,

We are very excited to be offering many *new opportunities* for the coming year (detailed throughout this letter)! Our Faith Formation and Youth Ministry departments are collaborating to ignite the faith in the young people of our parish and community to create **Discipleship Sessions**. These Discipleship Sessions will be in place of faith formation for the coming year. Additionally, we will be offering alternate times for middle and high schoolers. **Whether you attend public school, Catholic school, or are homeschooled, we invite you to join us for our new Discipleship groups!**

The focus of Discipleship will be on the person of Christ and putting Him at the center of our lives through prayer, conversation, and relationship. Discipleship will begin in September and run through mid-May and we will be taking up the question, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mk 8:29) as the central theme for our year. Please see enclosed a **sign-up for volunteers in which there is a great need**, and how to stay up-to-date with all of our events.

Please visit the link to our Formation webpage to view our 2022-2023 grade specific calendars and registration.

NEW We invite ALL Middle & High School families to join us for Mass on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. A High School Social will follow until 8:30 pm. Youth do NOT have to be registered for Discipleship to attend.

Discipleship Fees: Tuition for Discipleship will not include Sacramental Fees. Sacramental fees will be sent to all families who register for either Confirmation or First Communion. Please note the fee for ALL Discipleship is to cover the cost of materials. We do not want finances to be a barrier to any student participating. Scholarships are available for families in need. If you are interested in contributing to our scholarship fund, please contact us.

Session Options:

3k-5th Grade: 9:05-10:15 am Sundays

Middle School (6th-8th): Wednesdays 5:30-6:45 pm OR Sundays 9:05 am - 10:15 am

High School (9th-12th): Wednesdays 7-8:15 pm OR

Sundays 9:05 am - 10:15 am (9th-10th grade ONLY)

Confirmation (10th-12th): Wednesdays 7-8:15 pm ONLY

Discipleship (6th-12th Grade):

Details: We will be taking a deep dive into Mark's Gospel and the Mass this coming year. Each Discipleship night will include a short teaching, personal prayer time, and small group discussion to explore who Jesus is and how He is working in our lives.

All Wednesday Discipleship will be led by our new Youth Minister, Brianna Trifiletti. Teens are encouraged to primarily attend either the Wednesday or Sunday Sessions. If you are unable to attend your usual session, we ask that you attend the alternate time rather than not coming at all. Please be sure to notify Brianna Trifiletti ahead of time as a courtesy.

9th Graders interested in being Confirmed in 2024:

We are extending the opportunity to be confirmed to all incoming 10th through 12th graders. All freshmen interested in being confirmed their sophomore year need to attend discipleship nights, with no more than 2 unexcused absences during the 2022-2023 formation year and will have to meet the Archdiocesan criteria being at least 16 years of age by the 2024 Confirmation date.

CONFIRMATION (10th-12th Grade): We are extending the opportunity to be confirmed to all incoming 10th through 12th graders in the spring of 2023 for all eligible! **Confirmation is a discernment process and we encourage all to take this discernment seriously. Confirmation is not a graduation. It is one step to lifelong formation and discipleship. The expectation is that teens be involved in formation and discipleship at the parish throughout their entire high school career into their adult life.** Sophomores seeking to be confirmed will have to meet these minimum requirements to enter the confirmation track:

1. During the 2021-2022 school year, teens attended a Catholic School school or at least 80% of faith formation classes (No more than 4 absences).
2. Meet the Archdiocesan criteria of being at least 16 years of age by the confirmation date: May 5th, 2023.
3. Attend Wednesday nights, with no more than 2 unexcused absences during the 2022-2023 school year.

11th & 12th Grade Specifics: We highly encourage all juniors and seniors to be a part of our discipleship nights! For juniors or seniors that have been confirmed, we invite you to consider being a small group leader for either our middle or high school session or come as a participant and receive what the Lord has for you! *Training for small group leaders will be provided.* Please contact Brianna if interested. For those not confirmed, there will be a special track for Confirmation which will help students pray, learn, and be prepared for the sacrament and we ask that you discern with us this year. To be eligible for confirmation in the spring, teens need to attend Wednesday nights, with no more than 2 unexcused absences during the 2022-2023 year. We ask all upperclassmen participants to attend our Wednesday night Discipleship.

Praise God for all of this inspiration and new opportunities! Please continue to pray for our parish, staff, catechists, and most of all our youth as we strive to follow God's plan for us here at St. Jerome!

With Prayers and Thanksgiving,

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