**2018 COH Faith Formation Fall Semester Schedule**

**Journey with Christ**: (Formerly Generations of Faith)

Kindergarten-Sixth Grade and Adults: Sunday 12:30-2:00 PM: Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 7 & 28, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2

7th-11th grade: Wednesday 6:00-7:30 PM: Aug. 29, Sept. 19, Oct. 10, Oct. 31 (Mass), Nov. 14 & 28

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:** For ages 3 years old to kindergarten. Meets in the St. John rectory basement for 1.5 hrs per class. Start time varies based on Mass schedule. The start time is in the ( ).

Oct. 7 (8:30), Oct. 28 (9:30), Nov. 11 (9:30), Nov. 18 (8:30), Dec. 9 (9:30), Dec. 16 (8:30)

**Family Formation Sessions**:

Whys and What’s of the Mass with Fr. Aaron: Sunday, October 14 from 3-4:00 PM.

Stations of the Crib (Advent program): Sunday, December 9 at 6:00 PM

The Rosary: learn about the Rosary, and enjoy a hands on activity: Date TBD Spring 2019

**1st Reconciliation Classes**: 5:30-6:30 PM: Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and Mass Oct. 31 (6:00)

**Communal/ First Reconciliation Service**: Tentatively planned for Sunday, Nov. 4 at 1:00 at OLMC.

**First Communion Mass**: Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 10:30 Mass at St. Luke, Saint Lucas.

**Baccalaureate Mass**: Sunday May 12, 2019 at 8:30 Mass at St. Mary, Waucoma.

**Confirmation**: TBD

**Christ Our Hope Faith Formation Programs and Terms.**

Christ Our Hope Faith Formation Office: (formerly Light of Christ) The faith formation office for the parishes and families of the Cluster of Christ Our Hope. This office is located in the green all steel building (the Fr. Moran Center) on the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel campus in Lawler. Phone: 563-238-5004.

Journey with Christ a.k.a JC: (formerly Generations of Faith) This is the new name for the primary “cluster based” faith formation program for Kindergarten-Adults. There are 12 sessions a year from August to April for 1.5 hrs per class. All sessions are at the Faith Formation office. Students are split into grade group rooms. K-6th and adults meets on Sundays from 12:30 to 2 PM, and 7th-11th grades meet on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 PM. We use the *Be My Disciples* series for kindergarten through eighth, Theology of the Body (9), and Alteration (10).

There are sessions for adult formation on Sundays at the same time as K-6th. These are in the Mt. Carmel basement. This year the focus is on helping parents reflect on their relationship with Christ and become comfortable sharing those stories. It is also to offer support/ Catholic 101 for parents on how to live out their faith at home.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS): It is led by Lynette Wheeler, and is for those age 3 through kindergarten. This model of formation is based on the Montessori educational theory of hands-on learning. The curriculum focuses on the Mass, scripture, and the liturgical year. CGS helps students better understand and appreciate the Mass through instruction and hands on experiences. This group meets in the St. John rectory basement on Sunday mornings for 1.5 hours.

Family Formation Sessions: New this coming year, these will be three sessions a year designed specifically for the whole family to grow together. All parishioners are strongly encouraged to attend. Wither your kids go to a Catholic School or one of our cluster programs, your family will get something from these sessions.

Signs of Christ (SOC): SOC is a ministry in which the students do sign language choreography to contemporary Christian music. SOC performs at cluster and local events, and sometimes at archdiocese events. Open to students in 7-12th. Kay Shindelar leads this group. Please contact her for more information at 563-569-8658. Practices are often at the faith formation office or a local church.

HerStory in Christ: Often referred to as HerStory. This is a small faith sharing group only for high school females. At meetings they listen to music, read scripture, and discuss how they can live out their faith daily as high school teens. They also go to Christian music concerts, and do service projects together. Kay Shindelar leads this group and meetings are at her home. Please contact her for more information at 563-569-8658.

Sacramental Preparation: The archdiocese of Dubuque requires separate and specific classes be offered for sacramental preparation that are in addition to the regular formation classes. **Confirmation**: Students in eleventh grade are invited to be prepared for this sacrament. This includes a declaration of intent ceremony and a retreat during the winter. Confirmation is held in March or April.

**First Communion and Reconciliation**: These preparation sessions are offered starting in second grade. Each sacrament includes six preparation sessions. We work with Trinity Catholic School, so the students use the same sacramental prep material. First Reconciliation is in November and First Communion Mass is often in April or May, as it must follow Easter.

Baccalaureate Mass: Senior Mass. We have one Mass for all seniors and this is held in May.

Youth Liturgists: An individual at each parish that organizes youth Masses, and offers Altar Server training.

Giving Tree Project: The Faith Formation Office works with Northeast Iowa Community Action to sponsor area families as part of the “Giving Tree Project” each November. We do not know who the families are that are helped. NEICA gives us the names/ages of the family members, their clothing sizes and likes/needs. We generally have about 140-160 tags/gifts that are collected in 3 weeks from parishioners. This also includes personal hygiene baskets and paper product baskets. It is a great outpouring of giving from parishioners.

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC): This is a 3 day retreat open to high school students in 11th and 12th grade. This is a fantastic experience for students to reflect on their own faith and to grow closer to Jesus. There is a lot of fun, and the talks, and experiences are designed to help students draw closer to Christ. There are several offered each year throughout the Archdiocese, and the last several years there has been one held in Calmar.

NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference): This is a national event held every 2 years in November. NCYC is open to those who will be in high school the year it is offered. It offers something for everyone. It includes national speakers, interactive village, service opportunities, daily Mass and much more. The Archdiocese of Dubuque continues to have the largest delegation in history at NCYC, with 1500-2,000 teens and adults from our Archdiocese. Their 2019 goal is 2,019 people from our Archdiocese. NCYC has 23,000-25,000 people total from across the USA and from some other countries. **The Next NCYC is November 21-24, 2019**

Faith Formation Commission (FFC): The commission that advises the pastor in all areas related to faith formation for the Christ Our Hope cluster. This commission oversees faith formation staff and the opportunities mentioned above.