



Dear Parents,

Registration for youth formation is now open!

I want to begin by saying thank you for your patience with us as we find ourselves in both times of pandemic and transition. As we prepare for another year of Youth Formation, it is important that you know that the vision hasn't changed. Our mission is still to make disciples. We're still committed to the formation of the adults who will be ministering to your children. We still desire to form your children intellectually as well as humanly, spiritually, and communally. That just has to look a little different this year. We have to be creative.

In the past couple of years, you've heard us say that we want the vision to drive the timeline. We want to be very intentional with our time (and yours)! We promised you that we are no longer "doing things just for the sake of doing them". This year is no different. In pursuit of the best possible formation for our young people, we will delay the start of youth formation until January. We are asking for the Fall to transition well and to focus on the regrouping and recommitment of our team. We will begin formal formation of our young people in January of 2021.

What will be happening during the Fall?

We will continue our search for a new Coordinator of Youth Formation and use the coming months to make sure that the new leadership is able to transition well. We will also spend this time focusing on the adult volunteers. We want to foster discipleship and a culture of community with our leadership and mentors so that we can invite your children into that. We want to focus on a healthy team so that we can model holiness for your children.

We also hope that this gives your family time to settle into new school routines and to navigate this "new normal". We know that this time may be overwhelming for many of our families, and we hope that a slow pace in the fall will help us all settle into a new rhythm and routine. While we can't be together right now, we want to support you as parents. If there is anything that we can do for you, please let us know!

There is a temptation to look at a January start and feel like the kids are being left behind, but by taking this time to focus on our adults and how we support YOU as parents and as a family, the opposite is true. We are investing in a firm foundation for our young people.

What happens in January?

At this time, we do not know exactly what formation will look like in January. Much of that depends on where we are in light of COVID-19. At this time, we are exploring in-home and virtual options, as well as resuming on-site formation. As January nears, we will better be able to identify which of those options, or combination of options, will be the safest and most fruitful for our young people and their families. It's important to us that we are serving you well, so we'd love to hear from you. At the time of registration, you'll find a brief explanation of some of the options that are "on the table" for January. Please let us know how you feel so that we can plan intentionally with your needs in mind. Again, thank you for your patience as we navigate these uncertain times.

What about Sacrament Prep?

If your child is in 2nd or 11th grade and is preparing to receive sacraments this year, there is no need to worry. Our time together in the spring semester, in whatever format necessary, will be intentionally designed for their preparation. We are confident that we can adequately prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation with a January start date.

What happens now?

For now, we encourage you to register online at: www.ctr-htdiocese.org/youth or to request a paper registration form, call our office at 985-447-2013. This will guarantee that you are up to date with all of the latest information and communication as we move forward.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give us a call. In addition, we ask for your prayers now. Please pray that the Lord sends us the right Coordinator and that he blesses our team and their formation throughout the fall. Know that we are praying for each of you!

Fr. Alex Gaudet, Pastor