



St. Anthony of Padua
Worship Site

The Parish Family of St. Anthony of Padua

Roman Catholic Church

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Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Worship Site

July 20, 2020

Dear Faith Formation Families:

Our 2019-2020 GIFT sessions journeying with Our Lady of Guadalupe ended unexpectedly. Our lives were interrupted as we faced the daily challenges of the Corona Virus. As we do today, I continue to ask Our Lady of Guadalupe intercession upon you and your families.

One of my responsibilities as pastor is Faith Formation of all members of the parish family. One of the important aspects of our Faith Formation is our GIFT program. It is the process of families Growing In Faith Together.

I have developed a tentative outline for this year's gift sessions.

- I believe the new norms for our lives will be uncertainty. Uncertainty in our lives may cause anxiety. As your pastor, I want to be caring and compassionate to you and your family's needs.
- As we prepare for 2020-2021 GIFT Sessions, I do not know what challenges we will face ahead of us.
- In late September there will be an overview of this year's theme and blessing of families in Church. You & your family will be asked to attend one in person session that will be held on 3 or 4 different evenings so we can accommodate everyone in the Church with proper social distancing precautions.
- As in the past, you will need to register for a Monday or Wednesday session. In the event that we are able to begin in person sessions later in the year, it will be very important for each family to have a scheduled night.
- I am anticipating that the remainder of the GIFT Sessions will be done by zoom on your scheduled night which will be Monday or Wednesday. The zoom session will be about 15-20 minutes. There will be a family home packet designed. An explanation of the monthly theme will be presented, as well as directions and ideas for completing the family packet.

- Instructions on receiving and returning the home packet will be explained at the September session, and reviewed each month.
- It is important to remember these home packets are a mandatory part of the distance learning program and that each family will be held accountable for their completion to return within 2 weeks of the presentation.
- All families are asked to register for this year's GIFT sessions by **Monday, August 10th** so that we are able to plan for the correct number of participants for the Fall 2020 Gift Program. Please note that I have reduced the cost of the gift session to \$50.00 per family for this year. If there is a personal/confidential concern that prevents you from registering at this time, please call me at 732-634-1403 option 2.

To register:

Please fill out the enclosed form and return with payment to the parish office by **August 10th**.

Email the form to religioused.stanthony1@gmail.com and mail your payment to the parish office attention: Jackie Bamber.

The registration packet can also be downloaded from the parish website www.saintanthonypadua.org under the Religious Education tab – Growing in Faith Together.

- In the event that we can meet in person this year, there will be no family meal prior to the session.
- Since we probably will not be able to begin our GIFT program in person, please submit a family picture with your registration so that the picture can be displayed in church.

I am in the process of developing what we will do for our Sacramental Program beginning in the Fall, 2020.

Be assured of my continued prayers during this difficult time of transition.

GOD BLESS!



Fr. William Smith, Pastor