

Reflections from the Office of Faith Formation

First, breathe and remember that God is greater than all things. Give Him your fears, your concerns and your fatigue. Imagine placing it all at the foot of the cross, at the feet of Jesus, confident that He will take what is dead in you and bring it to new life. That is the hope promised to us in the Resurrection. That is the peace that surpasses all understanding. That is the Christian life. Jesus said "take up your cross and follow me". We know the cross involves suffering. But we also know where the cross leads us- **to our heavenly home with God who is love itself**. That is why St. Paul says in Romans 5 "*we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope*".

Second, persevere in faith. Each day may feel like a battle, but we are battle ready! We have been given the weapons through the virtue of baptism and the Sacramental life of the Church to not only "fight the good fight" as St. Paul describes, but to win. We have the Word of God and the Word made Flesh to nourish us. We have the Sacrament of Reconciliation to heal the battle wounds. We have prayer to purify and enlighten our souls. We have the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which were sealed upon us at Confirmation including Knowledge, Wisdom and Fortitude to inspire our minds. We have an army of angels and Saints interceding for us. We have the weapons set before us, we simply have to remember to use them. Peace be with you.

Third, Faith Formation will resume at some point, just not yet. With the uptick of COVID 19, we are erring on the side of caution. As parents, we ask that you keep your kids engaged in their faith life. Whether you attend Mass at the parish or watch Mass at home, that is a good place to start. Make a habit of praying before meals and take turns giving thanks to God in all things. Watch Catholic movies and cartoons on FORMED.org. Perform acts of service and explain that we honor God by loving our neighbor as our self as He commanded.

Should you like to borrow any of our books, works books etc. because you would like to work at home, we can happily loan them to you. However, rest assured that your child will not fall behind in receiving their Sacraments or behind in their grade level. We will get everyone caught up. Let's just get through this first. We know you have a lot on your plate and we are praying for each of you in a special way. If your family has a need, please reach out. We have extra food in the food pantry and volunteers available to help if you have a need.

May God bless you and your family,
Laurie Muth