

April 13, 2009

Dear Parent(s),

Your son or daughter is enrolled in our Faith Formation Ministries and I have some very important information to share with you. PLEASE read through the entire letter and contact me with any questions or comments at the above Family Center number or at jeffandrini@stpatstagh.org.

Look how much our parish invests in Faith Formation for our kids!!!

- Children's Ministries: Salary and programming budget, approximately \$40,000 divided by 278 children equals \$144 per child.
- Middle School Ministries: Salary and programming budget, approximately \$60,000 divided by 141 teens equals \$426 per teen.
- High School Ministries: Salary and programming budget, approximately \$70,000 divided by 73 teens equals \$959 per teen.

It is important to note that in middle and especially high school, there are many teens that participate along the way that are not registered and therefore not included in the above numbers. We are working to improve this reality.

It is clear that our Catholic Community values Faith Formation and we make a large investment in our young people!!! Thank you to all of you who make this possible and for Father Bill and our Pastoral and Finance Councils who value the next generation of Catholics enough to make these ministries a priority.

In light of current economic need and our investment in faith formation, we are making adjustments to our budgets, just like many of us in our homes. Although the thought of raising fees during our current economic crisis seems crazy, we have no choice but to work to raise revenue for these ministries. Our hope is that we can weather this current economy and keep our commitment to these ministries close to our current levels. Only time will tell.

In the short term we have two necessary solutions. 1) We will raise rates for Faith Formation from \$50/first child, \$40/second child, \$30/third child, with a maximum per family of \$120, to \$60, \$50, \$40, with a maximum of \$150 per family. 2) In the past, we have shown our appreciation to Catechists for the time they spend serving in Faith Formation by not charging them for their own children. We will now ask them to participate financially by offering a 50% reduction of their fees. **Please Know... We will never turn someone away that cannot pay!** We send out invoices and expect that if people can participate financially, they will. We hope that those that can, will simply pay this nominal fee and tithe regularly and those who are struggling will accept the generosity of our great community. Please register your children for next year on our [website](http://www.stpatstagh.org) or in the Family Center Office this Spring.

Your household remains in our prayers and we ask that you keep our Catholic community in yours. Thank you.

Peace in Christ,

[Jeff Andrini](mailto:jeffandrini@stpatstagh.org)
Director of Faith Formation
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