



Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

September 2, 2020

Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever!

It hardly seems possible that we, our nation, and the whole world has endured the coronavirus 'shut-down' for nearly six months. Although we have significant economic effects (the Mill closing, restaurants, and other business slowdowns), there have been few deaths in Wood county. And although many parts of the country still cannot gather in their churches, we have been able to celebrate the Mysteries of our Faith with relatively few interruptions and inconveniences. Indeed, our Mass attendance is now back to what it was before this all began. You have discovered that we need the Lord now more than ever!

Among the effects of the virus on our society is the increase in isolation for individuals, families, and communities. And this when we need each other more than ever! This is not only a human social reality, but a profound and fundamental aspect of our Catholic Faith. The Lord desires that we are drawn closer to Him and to each other.

As your Pastor, I have prayed and thought much about how to restore and strengthen bonds within families and among our families. We have 3 weekend Masses - and therefore 3 different parish communities. Further disconnecting us, our children and their families are split among 3 different means of education - public schools, Catholic schools, and home school. For this and other reasons, **I have decided to implement SS Peter & Paul Family Faith Formation**. Not only does this replace our CCD program as the means of religious education, but it is intended to bring all our families together and restore the proper role of parents as the first and most important teacher for their own children. All families - public, Catholic, and home schooled - are invited to join our monthly gathering in our Church for a brief prayer, after which all children will meet with their catechists while parents will meet with me in the Church basement. Parents will receive formation in the Faith, as well as resources to share and teach our Faith to their children the other weeks of the month.

The flyer included with this letter provides other details about SSPP's Family Faith Formation. At our initial gathering (for parents and children) in our Church on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:15pm, I will be able to explain more fully the scope and mission, address Sacramental preparation, and answer your questions.

May God Bless you!

Fr. Robert Schaller, Pastor