



August 20, 2019

Dear parents of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students,

We are excited to announce our new 2019-2020 Sunday School curriculum for your students, *Faith in Action*. This program will provide opportunities for your children to connect their Christian faith to their own lives and the world, in meaningful – and active! - ways.

As part of the program, the students will lead our parish's new outreach ministry, Food 4 Thought, in collaboration with our longtime ministry partner Britepaths. As a parish, we will be assembling weekend "power packs" of healthy meals, drinks, and snacks for Marshall Road Elementary School students who receive free or reduced-price meals during the week. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be directing the packing each month and will work with our younger Sunday School students to collect donations and promote the program.

On other Sundays, our class will explore topics including prayer and spirituality, finding their unique gifts and talents, building healthy relationships, caring for our world, managing stress, and more. We will welcome guest teachers, experts, and members of our parish community to help us learn, and will build in plenty of time for questions, community-building, and fun. We will also encourage the students to explore their creative side in a youth-led Eucharist just for our group in late winter. In the spring, we'll create our own micro-businesses and hold a Market Day to raise funds for our ministry partner Five Talents, to support its work in ending extreme poverty through economic empowerment. Throughout the year, we will review core Bible passages and stories of our shared faith and encourage our students to discover how those stories relate to their lives and relationships with God and others.

Our *Faith in Action* curriculum will draw from the *Teen Compass Faith and Wellness* program by Scott and Holly Hughes Stoner and the new Five Talents *Growing Faith and Talent* Sunday School curriculum. Our goals are for our students to

- Build a supportive community of peers;
- Nurture their relationships with our wider parish family, who will support them (and you!) through their pre-teen and teen years and beyond;
- Make connections between what they have learned in church and Sunday School to their own lives and faith journeys; and
- Empower them to use their faith, creativity, and unique talents to make a difference in the world - and live into their baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Our first Sunday School class will be on **September 22, from 10:10 – 11 am**, and our class will meet in the Lillian Croy room. We will introduce our program in more detail at the Sunday School parent

meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 6 at 10:10 am in the Ministry Center. At that time, we will also ask for your active support and partnership as we work together to make this year meaningful. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In Christ's love,

Faith in Action team