

Christ  
Centered  
Discipleship  
Continuing the Conversation



August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us... We know that *all things work for good for those who love God*, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:18, 28)

Dear parents,

I pray that this letter finds your home full of the abiding peace, love, and joy of Jesus as you and your children prepare to begin this new school year! I am sure that this year has been full of many challenges for your family, but I pray that you have also experienced moments of great joy in the midst of the sufferings. Personally, I know how grateful I have been for my faith in Christ and His promise of redemption – what a great blessing to have a glimpse of the glory of heaven even as we experience trials on earth, especially in the Eucharist!

I would like to share with you some exciting news about our Christ Centered Discipleship Faith Formation program for this coming year (2020-2021). Even though we will not be able to gather together as a community to share in meals and conversation as often as we have in the past, the Holy Spirit is doing some wonderful things that I am confident will bring great grace to your family!

In order to facilitate Religious Education in a way that is safe for our families, our parish has decided to partner with Damascus Catholic Mission Campus to provide their new, entirely online, family faith formation program **ALIVE** for our families! **ALIVE** is a **weekly video presentation**, created by young, energetic, and passionate missionaries, which will engage your family in fun games, growth in knowledge and wisdom, prayer and encounter with the Lord, and conversations about faith, all within the comfort and safety of your home! Best of all, these presentations are intended to engage all members of your family *together*! How awesome will it be to grow *together* for an hour each week!

Ideally, we also plan to gather once a month on Sunday as a full community to share a meal, to engage in age-appropriate learning, and to share experiences and conversation with other families. However, at this time we do not plan to gather as a full community until at least January – once COVID restrictions are lifted, we will begin to gather as a full community as soon as possible! In the meantime, *Sunday gatherings will be used for grade-specific Sacramental preparation only*. Please see the brochure included in this mailing for more information and for a tentative schedule of this year’s events.

As you will also see included in the brochure, the third portion of our Christ Centered Discipleship program this year is **monthly moments of encounter**. We are blessed with a large enough church to be able to continue to gather for worship & prayer during this time. Moments of encounter and worship are, in reality, the most important element of religious formation, since they allow for the grace of Jesus to *transform* our hearts, while we continue to gain knowledge and wisdom at the same time! During such a time as this, when so many events and activities need to be experienced through a screen, what a blessing these encounter moments will be for your child’s formation and growth!

A registration form is also included in this mailing. Please either fill out this form (one per family) and return it to the Parish Office OR fill out an online form, which can be found on our website or at the link in the Constant Contact email, by **Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**. *The actual cost for the ALIVE program is \$10/family/month. There will be no cost to you, and we expect the entire CCD program will be largely underwritten by the St. Wendelin Educational Foundation, as it has in the past.* However, we welcome **donations** to help us cover any costs that the Foundation may not be able to cover. Any donations may be written to **St. Wendelin Parish**.

I acknowledge that this year's Religious Education plan is very different from what we have experienced as a faith community in the past and that you, no doubt, have many questions, and possibly also concerns. Please feel free to contact me at any time to share your thoughts and to ask questions. My contact information is at the bottom of this letter. **Please also plan to attend a very important parent meeting on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.** At this meeting, Fr. Poggemeyer and I will explain our CCD plan in greater detail and, most importantly, provide coaching and direction for all parents as you prepare to use the ALIVE faith formation videos to teach your family from home.

Please know of my continued prayers for you, your child(ren), and your whole family as you navigate these changing and challenging waters, and please remember that our entire parish staff is here for you and is ready and willing to support you in any way possible.

In the love of Christ,



Pastoral Associate for Catechetical Formation  
St. Wendelin Catholic Parish  
[jessica.pehmoeller@stwendelin.org](mailto:jessica.pehmoeller@stwendelin.org)  
419-435-6692 x338 (office)  
440-503-0832 (cell)



"YOU HAVE MADE US FOR YOURSELF, O LORD,  
AND OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN YOU."  
-ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

ACCOMPANY A FRIEND WHO IS SEEKING  
TRUTH, PURPOSE, & FAITH TO WATCH:

# THE SEARCH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD  
6:30PM - 8:30PM  
ST. WENDELIN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
(PARISH HALL)

A SERIES PRODUCED BY THE AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE