



IMPORTANT INFORMATION
From the Office of Faith Formation
March 16, 2020
Nativity Catholic Church

Dear Families of Faith Formation:

FLOCKNOTE – KEEP IN TOUCH!

Please help us to keep in contact with you! If you are not already signed up for Flocknote, Take a moment now to sign up. Use your cell phone and text NativityBrandon to 84576. That is NativityBrandon (all one word with no spaces) to 84576 (put in as phone number).

Then after it texts you back, make sure you click that link and complete the process, choosing what updates you'd like from us. Please be sure to choose your Faith Formation class session day (i.e. 19-20 Wed Families or 19-20 Sun Families). Using Flocknote, you can opt in for text messages on your phone, E mail or both. This is important as it will be the way we can keep you updated.

FAITH FORMATION CLOSURES:

Due to Hillsborough County being closed and out of an abundance of caution, we have suspended Faith Formation classes for the next two weeks through March 29. We will continue to monitor week-by-week and will update you via Flock note if further events or classes are cancelled.

HOW DO YOU KEEP CURRENT WITH FAITH FORMATION CLASSES?

If your child is sick – please keep them home. As Father Tapp reminds us – it is not a sin to miss Mass if you are sick. Your family's health and wellbeing is of utmost importance to us! So, if the Nativity Campus is closed, or you miss class and/or Mass, stay current by visiting and utilizing the NATIVITY website.

<https://nativitycatholicchurch.org/>

Also, the **FORMED** platform has beautiful Lenten reflections for all ages as well as Gospel reflections for the current Sunday! Nativity has subscribed to the FORMED website. This is a wonderful gift to our families! If you are a current subscriber, great! if not, see instructions below.

FORMED.org has updated their platform and is now able to be accessed using your cell phone, Apple TV, Fire TV, Roku and other devices. Their sign-in process has changed, and it has eliminated the need for a password. In addition, they have updated their search capabilities and have included the 'Add to List' option like what one sees on Netflix or another streaming service.

Logging Back In

When you go to Formed.org **if you already have a formed login** you should click "Sign In" you will then be prompted to supply your email address which is connected to your account. Then a confirmation email will be sent to that email address's inbox, and you just have to click Sign In and you should be all set.

Creating an Account

If you do not have a formed login you should click "Sign me up".

it will then ask you *How would you like to sign up?* Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization".

Create your new account by searching "Nativity Brandon, FL" in the *Find your parish or organization* box.

Type your Name (first & last)

Type your Email Address

Click Sign Up

OVER

Review the Lectionary/Bible readings of the day with your family. Keeping a journal is also a wonderful practice and is fun to review years later. As always, if you do not have a Catholic family Bible, please let me know! We will be happy to provide one for you! Also, I will send you lectionary activities that you can do at home.



Sign up for **Faith Formation Summer programs**: VBS or Summer Program for Middle School grades 6, 7 and 8 is available **on-line NOW**. VBS will be held June 8 – 12 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon; and summer program will be held June 8 – 19 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. (Summer Middle school is an alternative to weekly faith formation classes throughout the academic year.)

We hope the health situation will be resolved sooner than later and continue to keep the comfort and safety of families as our top concern. In the meantime, we remain committed to serving you and helping you through this challenging time. Please keep us in prayer as we keep you and your families in prayer. See ideas to help your children cope below.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me via E mail or phone:

Pam@nativitycatholicchurch.org

Blessings to you and your families during this Lenten season.

Stay safe and healthy,

NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

Pam Emery

Pamela Emery, DFF – RE

CORONAVIRUS – HELPING CHILDREN COPE FROM OSV.COM

- **Consider “virtual visits” with family members and friends.** In communities where people have been advised to stay home, consider using one of the many digital applications that allow for video-based chats. This might be especially important for staying in touch with grandparents and other elderly family members, who have been strongly advised to practice social distancing during this outbreak due to their increased risk of complications from the virus. But *social distancing* doesn’t mean *social isolation*; look for creative ways to stay connected.
- **Remind kids that “this too will pass.”** Though many of our routines will change in the coming weeks, coronavirus doesn’t need to change our lives forever. Disease outbreaks last for a season. Young children, especially, often haven’t had enough experience with temporary life disruptions to remember that things can and do get back to normal. Reassure them that any fun parts of life they are missing will be back soon.
- **Spend some time each day in family prayer.** Pray for those who have the virus and for the safety of those who don’t have it, especially health care workers and others on the “front lines” of the outbreak. As we cope with this current crisis, it’s important that we remember the words so often repeated in Scripture: “Do not be afraid.” God is with us not only in good times, but in stressful times, too.