



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This Feast gives us the opportunity to reflect on the Holy Family and to appreciate the many blessings of family life.

One of our many blessings is our parish staff. At this time, we need to say a fond farewell to one of our Parish Staff family members while we welcome someone new to St. James Staff.

Marianne Mirkow, one of the Co-Coordinators of our Faith Formation Program, recently retired from her position after 13 years of dedicated Service. Marianne brought many gifts to St. James, including her devotion to the church, her sincere faith, her wonderful way with the parents of the children in our program and her dedication and love for all of the children. Her responsibilities included the Coordination of Levels One through Six and especially our First Penance and First Eucharist Programs.

Marianne always had a warm smile to welcome all who came to our Office of Faith Formation always trying to assist each person as best she could.

God bless you, Marianne! Our Faith Formation Program is stronger and faith-filled because of your dedication and service over these past 13 years.

I am delighted to announce that I have hired Lucy Creed as the new Director of Faith Formation, with special responsibilities for Levels One through Six, our First Penance and First Eucharist Programs.

A Graduate of St. John's University with a BS degree in Education and an MA degree in Theology, Lucy began her career as a teacher in Catholic School in Queens.

She has an affinity for Jr. High Students and taught Social Studies, Math, Religion for 10 years. Lucy was a part time DRE at St. Pius V in South Jamaica where she also taught 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Religion and Social Studies. Sensing the call to serve as a Principal in a Catholic School Lucy began to study for an MS in Administration and Supervision which she completed at Fordham University in 1995; she served as a principal for 2 years at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Brooklyn.

The call to Faith Formation was strong and Lucy left Brooklyn for the Diocese of Rockville Centre where she served as the DRE at Blessed Sacrament in Valley Stream for 14 years. She also served as a DRE at St. Patrick's in Huntington, St. Anthony's in Oceanside and St. Frances de Chantal in Wantagh. It was from St. Frances that she was called upon to minister to the greater church on Long Island as Associate Director of Faith Formation. At the Diocesan Office she was responsible for working with parishes on the RCIA, Baptism, Consolation ministries as well as running workshops for parish ministers including the Annual Catechetical Congress and Bereavement Conferences as well as coordinating the faculty for the School of Missionary Disciples.

Lucy Creed comes to St. James with a plethora of experience in parish ministry. She is excited and looking forward to ministering at St. James and coming to know the people and children in Faith Formation.

Welcome, Lucy! We are delighted to have you as a member of St. James Staff and as the new Director of Faith Formation, Levels One through Six.



Fr. John