Weekly Faith Formation Update
November 16-20, 2020

Zoom Thanksgiving

In advance, invite participants (family and/or friends) to share memories of the first Thanksgiving they remember and then the most recent memory they have – perhaps from last year. Encourage them to write or draw their stories (they’ll need white paper, pencils/pens/felt pens) ahead of time. Since only one person can speak at a time on screen via Zoom use Eric Law’s process of Mutual Invitation for the sharing of stories and pictures. Include all ages!

Possible questions to enhance the storytelling:
- How are our first stories different from our last stories?
- What different stories could we have next year? In twenty years?
- What stories could we hear if we asked our pets to tell what Thanksgiving is like?
- What stories could we hear if we asked someone without a home tell us what Thanksgiving is like?
- How could the stories we have heard and imagined change our own Thanksgiving celebrations?

Close your virtual gathering with a simple blessing. Some examples:
- Lord, some people have food and no friends. Some people have friends and no food. We thank you that today we have both. Amen.
- Gracious God, thank you for the stories we share, the friends around us on our screens, the love between us, and Your presence among us. Amen.

Harvest Blessing Snack Mix

Each ingredient in the snack mix symbolizes something associated with the harvest season of Thanksgiving. Invite each family to bring a bowl and packets of the various items: bugles, pretzel twists, candy corn, dried fruit, peanuts or sunflower. Be sensitive that there might be food allergies.

As you describe each item, have the family dump into the bowl. Share and enjoy!
- Bugles: Represent the cornucopia or horn of plenty
- Pretzel twist: Represent arms folded in thanks and prayer
- Candy corn: During the first winter, the pilgrims were each allotted only five kernels of corn per day because food was scarce.
- Dried Fruit: Thanksgiving is the celebration of harvest
- Peanuts or sunflower seeds: Seeds represent the potential of a bountiful harvest for the next season if they are planted and well tended.