

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the Coronavirus has changed almost every aspect of our daily lives, religious education classes for the 2020-2021 school year are unfortunately no exception. To maintain social distancing and put the safety of our students and teachers first, catechism classes will be divided into two groups. Group A, consisting of students in kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, will meet one week for 30 minutes. Group B, consisting of students in grades 5<sup>th</sup>-Confirmation, will then meet the next week for 30 minutes. Thus, your child will have catechism classes every other week for 30 minutes.

Per the diocese guidance, each student will be required to wear a face mask or face shield during the entire 30 minute lesson and during drop-off/pick-up times. We STRONGLY encourage all parents who are picking up and dropping off their students to also wear a mask for the safety of all the kids and teachers.

We know this is a very trying and scary time for everybody. With that said, the diocese has granted religious education programs special permission to allow parents to opt out of the traditional catechism classes and teach their children the material/lessons at home instead. If you would prefer to teach your child at home and not attend the in-person lessons, please email us and we can set up a time to get the materials to you and your family.

Group A classes (kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade) will start on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:45pm-6:15pm. They will then proceed to have class every other week from that point through December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Group B classes (5<sup>th</sup> grade through confirmation) will start on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:45pm-6:15pm. They will have class every other week until December 9<sup>th</sup>.

This will be the schedule for the fall semester and we will re-evaluate over Christmas break to determine if we can resume classes as normal including hour long lessons every week for each grade level. If you have any questions or concerns, always feel free to contact us via email. Our contact information is listed below.

Thank you,

St. Joseph's Religious Education Team

Email: [stjoesreligiouseddirector@gmail.com](mailto:stjoesreligiouseddirector@gmail.com)