

Dear PREP Parents,

PREP 2019-2020 ended rather abruptly. No time for good byes and wishes for a happy summer. Hopefully, you received emails from the PREP Office and your child's catechist encouraging you to continue to pray as a family; attend Mass remotely or physically, when able; and to help your child study vocabulary in his/her textbook. Our future sixth, seventh, and eighth graders were advised to study for the Truths of Our Faith test using the study guides found on the SML website. Recently, First Eucharist Masses and Confirmation services were rescheduled. The PREP Staff, who had been working from home, returned to the Office, but is relying on phones and emails to limit contact as much as possible.

Now we need to prepare for the 2020-2021 academic year.

We will be offering the options of in-classroom classes and virtual learning classes. For in-classroom classes, 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders are able to attend Tuesday or Wednesday from 4:15 to 5:30. We have switched the evening sessions for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They will attend on THURSDAYS from 7:00 to 8:30. Classes will begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. **THIS IS CONTINGENT UPON THE PANDEMIC, DIOCESAN MANDATES, AND STATE REGULATIONS.** We will keep you informed if we need to switch to all virtual classes, change times, and so forth. **Communication is vital.** Please check your emails frequently, and we will do the same. For those who choose virtual learning, the individual classes will be scheduled by the catechists. We will begin the same week as traditional classes and will have textbooks and instructions for you to pick up in September.

If your child(ren) are in the classroom for the year, everyone in the building must wear a mask at all times. We will also be making changes to our drop-off and dismissal procedures. We will notify you of these changes prior to the start of PREP.

Registration looks a little different this year. We are no longer using the paper registration forms. We are pleased to be using new software that allows you to register on line and to pay with a credit card or direct debit from your bank account. You also have the option to pay later, if you prefer. If you wish to pay by check or cash, you may choose pay later and mail the payment to us. **You can begin registration by clicking the link below.** You register each child by enrolling in his/her grade and the day you want. We have had to set a limit for how many students can register on Tuesday and Wednesday. We will be setting up traditional classes according to social distancing requirements, thereby requiring us to keep classes small. **We absolutely cannot honor requests for placements with specific teachers or students (the only exception is that catechists' children will be in their classes, if so desired).**

Please register as soon as possible because this helps us plan for the upcoming year. The earlier you register, the happier we are!

If you are new to the program and your children were baptized anywhere but St. Mary of the Lakes, you must provide a copy of their Baptismal certificate for our files. You will be able to upload their Baptismal Certificate when registering.

On the PREP page of the Parish website is a Volunteer Commitment Form. Since the strength of our program is dependent upon active participation, we ask that you give serious consideration to participating in one of the listed positions. Once again, we have a crucial need for catechists for both in-class and virtual teaching, especially since our classes need to be small to adapt to social distancing regulations. We would also like our virtual classes to be small to strengthen the effectiveness of virtual learning. Our goal is to have a catechist and an assistant in each class. If you know someone who would make a good catechist, please give him or her a nudge in our direction. We offer training, guidance, teacher's editions of textbooks (with the answers in them!), and prayers. No experience is necessary – just a love of God and children! This offer applies to high school juniors and seniors as well. As an added incentive, catechists and assistants do not pay registration fees.

We ask for your patience and cooperation during these unusual times. If you have any concerns, please email me at [mscordato@smlparish.org](mailto:mscordato@smlparish.org). Stay safe, stay well, and God bless!

MaryPat Scordato  
Director of Religious Education

Click [HERE](#) to register for PREP