



DIOCESE OF MADISON  
BISHOP O'CONNOR CATHOLIC PASTORAL CENTER

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702 S. High Point Road  
Suite 225  
Madison, Wisconsin 53719-4926

Office of Evangelization & Catechesis  
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September 8, 2021

Dear Faith Formation Families,

We hope our letter finds you excited to begin another year of faith formation in 2021-22. First, we would like to thank you for seeking a life of faith for your children and family. Thank you for entrusting the Church with such an important role of handing on the faith to your children. We know that the past couple of years have been difficult for all families as you navigated all of the policies and procedures for returning to classrooms and extracurricular activities safely. Our response to these new protocols were critical to our ability to continue to offer live and “in person” faith formation.

It is the request of Bishop Hying that all parishes offer live, “in person” faith formation opportunities; however, they must be prepared to assist families who request remote-learning options.

As we plan for another year, we want to give families and parishes guidelines for managing COVID-19 during this coming school/program year. Earlier in the summer, the CDC updated its Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools. Wisconsin’s DHS COVID-19 page has also been updated in the anticipation of a return to school and work for the fall. We in the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis think it is prudent to look to these guidelines to assist you. After careful review, we recommend the following:

- Classrooms/meeting rooms and activities will be arranged for individuals to maintain a distance of 3 ft whenever possible and practical.
- Regular sanitizing and hand washing is encouraged for all parish program participants.
- Faith formation (along with schools) should continue to sanitize high touch/traffic areas (desks, tables, doors, etc.).
- Masks are options for students and volunteers (unless otherwise mandated: i.e., Dane County Order). The decision to wear masks, if not mandated by local government, is made at the discretion of the parents/guardian of the child.
- Temperature and health-screening reporting are not required though parents should always monitor their child(ren) for symptoms of illness.
- Individuals (children and adults) who develop symptoms of illness must stay home and away from parish programming.
- Contact-tracing protocols will be followed per county/state guidelines.



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As we monitor the situation with COVID, each parish may introduce additional protocols as needed and according to local county/state guidelines. As we have already learned, the situation can change quickly, in which case this guidance may be updated.

Thank you again for your commitment to our Catholic Faith and being willing to work cooperatively with us in the formation of children and adults. May God grant your family every grace and blessing.

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Nilsson

Office of Evangelization & Catechesis

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