

Catholic Weymouth Collaborative
Proposal for In-Person Fall Faith Formation in Light of COVID-19

Emergency Contact:

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Summer Session:

Catholic Weymouth held Faith Formation classes this summer. We had a total of 19 students participate across grades 6-10, as well as 7 families participate in a remote homeschool option offered for students in grades 1-5 (excluding grade 2). These classes took place outside with proper social distancing and COVID-19 safety protocols. Summer classes covered the same content as Fall classes and thereby served to cut down the number of students who will need to take classes this Fall.

Fall Session COVID-19 Proposal:

Catholic Weymouth proposes to meet in-person for all grades and parent formation sessions this Fall, with a remote option available for families who do not feel comfortable meeting in-person. To ensure the safety of our community all state and archdiocesan health and safety protocols are to be observed - Face Coverings, social distancing, proper hand hygiene, temperature checks of all participants and volunteers, strict attendance list/policy, 25 person limit, large open spaces with proper ventilation, cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces. Additionally, the number of students participating in classes at any given time will be greatly reduced relative to last year by the implementation of an alternating weekly schedule. The remainder of this document outlines this plan in greater detail and highlights specific steps to be taken to ensure the health and well-being of our students, families, and staff.

Safety Steps and Protocol Details

Limiting Numbers in Buildings:

In addition to limiting the number of students taking classes by providing a summer option, we propose to offer Fall Session classes on an alternating schedule. This means that half the grades will meet one Sunday and half the grades will meet the following Sunday. Additionally, a maximum of 25 people per enclosed indoor space will be observed. Priority registration will be given to Parishioners of Catholic Weymouth.

Please see the proposed schedule below:

Grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9: Group A

September 20, October 4, 18, November 1, 15, December 6

Grades 4, 5, 8, 10: Group B

September 27, October 11, 25, November 8, 22, December 13

Times & Locations:

Grade 1, 3: Sunday 10am-11:30am | Immaculate Conception Gym - Group A

Grades 4, 5: Sunday 10am - 11:30am | Immaculate Conception Gym - Group B

Grade 2: Sunday 10am-11:30am | Immaculate Conception Bernadette Room - Group A¹

Parent (Grades 1, 2, 3): Sunday 10am -11:30am | Immaculate Conception Chapel - Group A

Parent (Grades 4, 5): Sunday 10am -11:30am | Immaculate Conception Chapel - Group B

Grade 6, 7: Sunday 3:30-5pm | Saint Jerome School Gym - Group A

Grade 8: Sunday 3:30-5pm | Saint Jerome School Gym - Group B

Grade 9: Sunday 6-7:30pm | Saint Jerome School Gym - Group A

Grade 10: Sunday 6-7:30pm | Saint Jerome School Gym - Group B

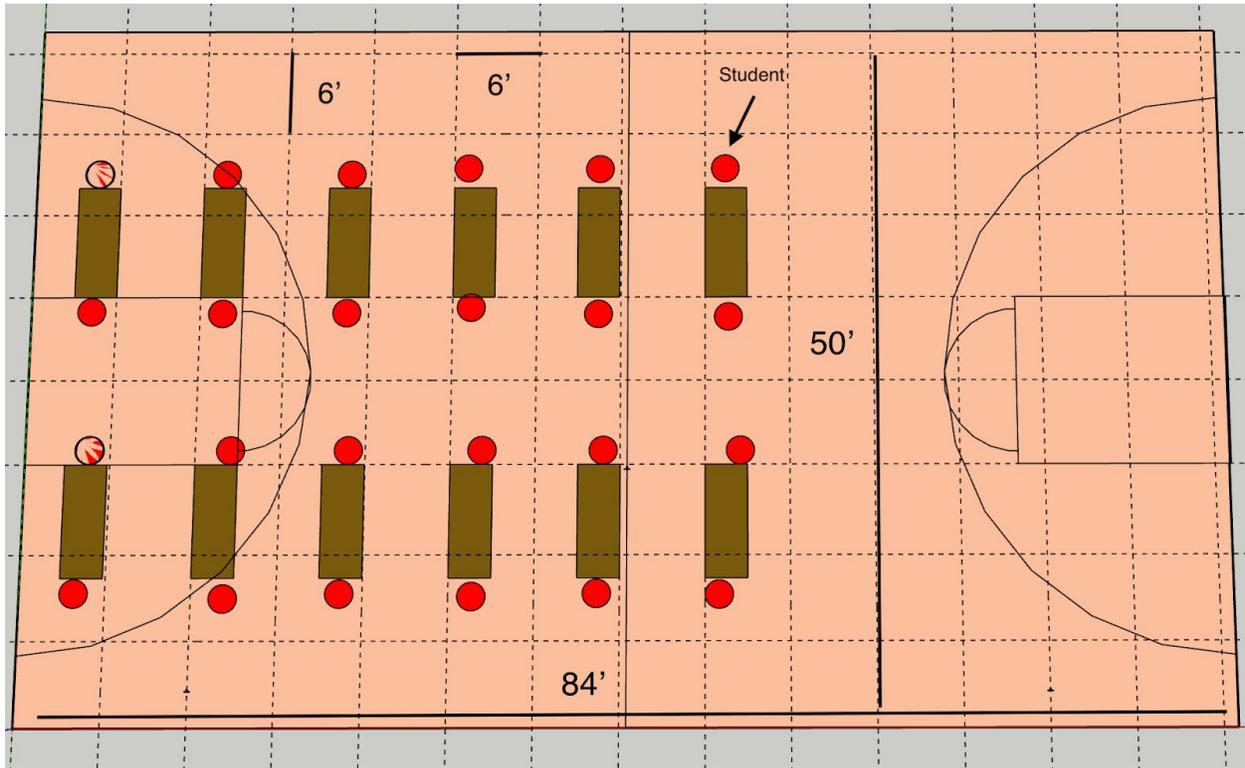
For example: A student in grade 4 would typically meet on 6 consecutive sundays in the Immaculate Conception Gym for classes with grades 1, 3, 4, & 5. By splitting the grades and meeting on alternating weeks a grade 4 student now shares the space with only one other grade (grade 5) as opposed to 3 other grades.

Use of Large Indoor Spaces and Ventilation:

As one may note from the proposed schedule above the spaces to be used for these classes are the biggest at our disposal, namely both the Immaculate Conception Gym and the St. Jerome School Gym. Parent sessions will take place in the Chapel at Immaculate Conception. The Bernadette room, to be used for 2nd Grade only, is a large space consisting of what used to be 3 full sized classrooms which has since been converted into one multi-use space (20 student maximum occupancy). Windows will provide ventilation for all spaces in addition to existing ventilation systems.

¹ In the event of more than **20** 2nd Graders electing to take the in-person option a second session of the class can be offered on Group B weeks.

Proposed Gym Space Diagram:



We propose to use 8 foot tables spaced 6 feet apart and have students on either side of the table. This should provide adequate social distancing, and should be more than enough spots for our students. In the Diagram above students are indicated by a red circle and tables are brown rectangles. Dotted lines indicate 6 foot sections.

Bernadette Room Space Usage Plan:

The Bernadette Room was created by the combination of three standard sized classrooms into 1 multiuse space. We propose to utilize the space in a similar manner to the gym. Utilizing 6 foot tables we will place students on either end of these tables, these tables will subsequently be placed 6 feet apart from one another. We believe we can safely fit 20 students in this space.

Additional Protocols

At Home Health Check:

Before attending classes parents will be instructed to assess their families health. In the event of sickness, families will be expected to take advantage of the remote option available for every class (to be discussed later in the document), until they or their child is healthy enough to come to class in-person.

Face Coverings:

All students age 5 and above will be expected to wear a face covering at all times even when practicing proper social distancing.

Social Distancing:

All students and catechists are expected to maintain 6 foot Social Distance at all times. Students will be expected to remain seated at all times to limit movement throughout the space and more easily facilitate consistent social distancing.

Temperature Checks:

Using the provided non-touch thermal scanners, all program participants – children, parents, volunteers, catechists, staff, and clergy – will have their temperature taken before being allowed to participate in faith formation.

Hand Hygiene:

Students and catechists will be instructed to wash their hands frequently and take advantage of hand sanitizer which will be made available during all classes.

Sanitizing Shared Surfaces:

All shared surfaces will be sanitized both before and after use for in-person Faith Formation.

Attendance Lists and Policy:

Updated and accurate lists of participants (along with emergency contact information) and attendance for each grade will be maintained at all times to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a COVID-19 case.

No one will be allowed to “drop in” for classes. **All participants MUST register ahead of time.** If someone shows up who is not registered they are to be given the appropriate registration information and instructed to register for the next week’s class.

25 Person Maximum:

In accordance with state mandated indoor occupancy levels a maximum of 25 people (students and teachers) will be allowed in any given enclosed location; gym, classroom, or chapel.

No Food:

Catechists will be instructed that there is to be a strict **No Food** policy for all Faith Formation gatherings.

Remote Option Available for all Classes

For all classes and sessions a remote option will be made available for families who do not feel comfortable participating in-person. This remote option will consist of watching a video recording of the class and answering follow up questions through Google Form as proof of participation. Families may choose this option on a case by case basis during the registration process.

In the event of a COVID-19 case

All parents will be instructed to alert us immediately upon *suspicion* of a COVID-19 case. In the event of a positive case all parents of students in the same grade as the infected student will be notified by email and phone. These classes will move strictly online and all students will be treated as “remote.” The same criteria will hold for an infected catechist or volunteer.

Entering “State Red Category”:

In the event that the state indicates Weymouth among communities in its Red Category (>8 cases per 100,000 people) all in-person Faith Formation will move entirely remote (See “Remote Option” section above for description). At the time of this document’s composition Weymouth is in the state’s “Green Category” (<4 cases per 100,000 people)

At Catholic Weymouth we believe that Faith Formation is of the utmost importance to our Church mission. As we move forward in this unprecedented time every effort will be made to maintain the safety and well-being of our community.

Any additional questions regarding COVID-19 safety protocols should be directed to
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