

St. Benedict's Plan for Resumption of Sunday Morning Religious Education with Calendar

1. This written plan is based upon a) the *School Re-Entry and COVID-19 Mitigation Plan, Vigo County School Corporation*, b) Archbishop Thompson's *Plan for Reopening of Churches and Resuming the Celebration of Public Sunday and Weekday Masses and the other Sacraments in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis*, and by c) guidance provided by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office of Catechesis.
2. Parents and catechists were surveyed and consulted verbally as to their preferences to online learning, in-person learning, or a hybrid approach.
 - a. Religious education plans of Terre Haute city parishes were also considered, i.e. city parishes are not meeting in-person and are offering online religious education programs for 2020.
 - b. A letter shall be sent to parents via USPS and plan shall also be posted on all St. Benedict's platforms. To be included in letter:
 - i. Mass as preeminent means of faith formation,
 - ii. Faith formation and health of children, and health of catechists top priorities,
 - iii. Parents as primary catechists of their children.
3. Religious education shall be offered in an online format for 2020. In addition to the online format, supplemental in-person classes shall be offered one time per month. A schedule for classes has been established and shall remain flexible and subject to change.
 - a. Should VCSC classes move to all virtual, the supplemental in-person class shall also be virtual. Should current health crisis improve considerably, more in-person classes may be added; based, in part, on the respective classroom catechist and the class size.
 - b. Religious Education classes for Grades K-8:
 - i. Parents will be asked via email to pick up hard copies of student materials, either in church or at the parish office. Those not picked up will be sent home via USPS.
 - ii. Class schedule is:
 1. In-person meeting the first Sunday of the month. ZOOM class with catechist on the 3rd Sunday of the month. 2nd and 4th Sundays parents use *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* at home.
 - iii. Wednesday, September 2, 7:00p – Zoom meeting with catechists to discuss how program will work and preferences they have. Meeting will be recorded for those who cannot attend.
 - iv. Sunday, September 13 – 8:30a - Catechist “test run” of ZOOM breakout rooms and use of digital content.
 - v. Sunday September 20, 2020 – virtual opening session
 1. 8:30a – 9:30 - a virtual opening in Hellmann Hall with Rita and Fr. Martin welcoming students and parents.
 2. Catechists introduced on Zoom.
 3. Students meet catechists in breakout rooms

4. Intergenerational activity provided for children and parents – **do activity from 2nd grade – family trace/outline youngest member on newsprint (provided by us). Write “We are the Body of Christ” and inside the “body” write all family members and other parishioners. Bring to church and Rita will hang at greeter tables. Yay or nay??**
 5. *Gospel Weeklies* virtual & hard-copy approach explained to parents.
- vi. Remaining Schedule for September – December**
- vii. September 27 – parents lead at home via *Gospel Weeklies*
- CHANGE for First In-person class**
- Saturday, October 3, 7:30p – Walking Rosary hosted by middle school.**
- ALL meet and tie this together with Feast of St. Francis, Oct. 4**
- i. **October 4 – We do not meet this day and instead the night before**
 1. Supplemental: in person, Grades K-8
 2. In-person class time is 8:30-9:50a
 - ii. October 11 – parents lead at home via *Gospel Weeklies*
 - iii. October 18 - Virtual, all grades meet via ZOOM
 - iv. October 25 – parents lead at home via *Gospel Weeklies*
 - v. November 1 – Virtual, via ZOOM
 1. Supplemental: in person, Grades K-8 (no preschool)
 2. In-person class time is 8:30-9:50a
 - vi. November 8 - at home via *Gospel Weeklies*
 - vii. November 15 - Virtual, all grades meet via ZOOM
 - viii. November 22 - at home via *Gospel Weeklies*
 - ix. November 29 - at home via *Gospel Weeklies*
 - x. December 6 – Virtual, via ZOOM
 1. Supplemental: in person, Grades K-8
 2. In-person class time is 8:30-9:50a
 - xi. December 13 - at home via *Gospel Weeklies*
 - xii. December 20 - Virtual, all grades meet via ZOOM
 - xiii. January – May, 2021 calendar TBD.
- xiv. The online, digital version of *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*, is the primary curriculum for Kindergarten through grade 8. Parent guides for every Sunday are available online. Hardcopies of the weekly pamphlets and the *Catechism Handbook* are available online and will be sent home.
1. To access student books, parent guides, videos, prayers and more go to <https://www.pflaumweeklies.com/>
 2. Enter: email - rita@stbenedictth.org, password: Education\$2020
 3. Students who opt for the monthly in-person class will be asked to bring the pamphlet with them from home and additional student copies will be photocopied and provided onsite.

4. For catechists who prefer to meet in-person more often, an option will be given to parents at the time of registration to assess feasibility of additional in-person meetings.
 - c. Arrival and departure have been established to help maintain social distancing.
 - i. Parents of children 5th grade and older are asked not to enter the building.
 - ii. Parents are asked to leave the building once their children are in the classroom. No standing or waiting in the hallway during drop-off or departure.
 - iii. Parents are asked to wait outside when picking up their children.
4. Classroom procedures:
 - a. Masks are to worn at all times.
 - b. Social distancing shall be maintained in every classroom. Students will be seated 6 feet apart.
 - c. Children will be asked to maintain social distancing.
 - d. Hand sanitizer will be placed at the doors of each classroom. Students and staff will use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting room.
 - e. Sanitizing wipes or sanitizing spray with paper towels will be in each classroom for catechist to use as needed.
 - f. Students will be assigned seats.
 - g. Each student will have personalized materials in their own tub or bag, including; *Gospel Weeklies* pamphlets, pencil, crayons, markers.
 - h. No shared materials.
 - i. Cloth covered seats will be removed and will not be used.
 - j. Middle school class will meet in the gym to allow more distancing.
 - k. Windows will be open wherever possible.
 - l. Coffee and doughnuts suspended and snacks will not be allowed in the classroom.
5. Pastoral Associate/DRE will communicate to pastor, Vigo County health officials and parents if a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 has been in our parish center during religious education on Sunday morning.
 - a. Vigo County Health Department will be alerted.
 - b. Parish will follow the guidance of the Vigo County Health Department.
 - c. Areas used by the sick person will be closed off until proper cleaning and disinfecting has been performed.

Submitted by: Rita Burns Senseman, Pastoral Associate & Director of Religious Education