

Protocols and Re-Opening Plan for
Our Lady of Victory Religious Education
2020-21 School Year

Goal: The goal of the schools of the Diocese of Columbus is to return to normal school operations to the fullest extent permitted by health and safety regulations as established by CDC guidelines and the State of Ohio, including the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health.

Because we have a unique situation where we are only together once a week, we put together a safe plan to return to class and spread the lower grades out over several classrooms. The decision was made to have the 6th and 7th graders be totally online either with Zoom and Catechists or online at their own pace in order to free up space for the lower grade levels since they have smaller bodies and take up less space. Due to the nature of 8th grade and the importance of that Sacramental year, we are offering in-class or online to give options for each families' comfort level. Lower grades have the option (if space is available) to be in person class sessions or At Home Catechesis where the parent is the catechist for their family.

Great planning, and lots of hours on professional webinars about how to get kids back to school safely, updated information from the CDC, local health department, along with the directives from the Diocese of Columbus, and looking at our layout of our building went into our Re-Opening Plan for our school year. Everyone has a different comfort level and we must respect everyone's thoughts on this pandemic. We all come from a different context and we must respect your opinion. Your child's welfare and also their spirituality are most important to us and we all have a part in keeping each other safe.

See the Religious Education at OLV Programs page for descriptions on each program we offer.

The schools of the Diocese will have a 3-tier approach going forward:

Tier 1 – Normal operations - buildings fully opened with in-person instruction and safety protocols.

(We are not at this level presently and will not go to this level until possibly the 2021-2022 school year due to the size of our spaces, etc.)

Tier 2 – Blended learning – a combination of in-person and/or distance learning.

(We are at the blended learning level at this time. Only ½ a class, up to 10 students can attend class each weekend in a classroom. In short, in person will only be twice a month. Your child will be assigned a group and they will attend every 14 days with those same students in their group. That time frame allows us to have a 14 day window in case there is a exposure.

Tier 3 – Distance learning – full remote, on-line instruction for 5th – 8th grades and total At Home Catechesis for the Pre-K through 4th grades with buildings closed. Families will be asked to pick up their child’s curriculum book and packet in order to continue their religious education at home.

Tier 3 will go into place if the Governor or the Health Department shut down schools due to increased high number of infected persons.

From the Diocese of Columbus Guidelines On April 27, Governor DeWine issued guidance for the reopening of Ohio. In his presentation he listed three guides for defining the overall strategy of the State:

- Protect the health of employees, customers, and their families.
- Support community efforts to control the spread of the virus.
- Lead in responsibly getting Ohio back to work.

In developing individual business plans for reopening, we provided 5 criteria that must be met:

1. Masks must be worn by employees, clients, and customers.
2. Daily health assessment required to be taken by each employee entering your building.
3. Maintain good health hygiene, including hand-washing/sanitizing, coughing/sneezing into your elbow, etc.
4. Clean and sanitize all surfaces throughout the day and after the end of the workday.
5. Maintain social distancing.

- COVID-19 Self Monitoring checklist from the Diocese of Columbus will be required for each volunteer each Sunday.
- ALL VOLUNTEER STAFF WILL BE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT THE COVID-19 SELF MONITORING CHECKLIST AND TURN IN WHEN ENTERING THE BUILDING.

- ALL VOLUNTEER STAFF WILL HAVE THEIR TEMPERATURE TAKEN AS THEY ENTER THE BUILDING AS WELL AS EACH CHILD WHO ENTERS THE BUILDING ON SUNDAYS MORNING FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS.

Procedures and Policies

Health Assessments: Require volunteer staff to bring in the COVID-19 Self Monitoring checklist each Sunday that they teach in the classroom. All volunteers will have their temperatures taken as they enter the building. If their temp is above 100.00 or higher, they will be asked to leave immediately along with their children attending class that Sunday.

Physical/Social Distancing: Utilize visual cues on floors and or desks to maintain physical distancing. We have three points of entrance into the Parish Life Center building. Your family will be assigned a door to enter each Sunday they attend class at OLV.

Face Coverings: Anyone entering the Parish Life Center will be required to wear a mask/face covering. This includes volunteers, parents dropping off or picking up their children in the building, any child of any age attending class. They will keep their masks on at all times during class time and while in the building. Infants with their parents while dropping off their other children are not required to wear masks in the building.

Good Hygiene Practices: Hand sanitizer stations are located at every entrance into the building. Hand sanitizer stations will be also located inside the door of each classroom. The student does not have to sanitize their hands until they enter the classroom. The ones located by the doors are for parents when dropping off or leaving.

8th graders will use the hand sanitizer stations located immediately when they enter the upstairs doors.

Hand-washing is required when using the restrooms. Hand-washing posters are located in all the restrooms in the Parish Life Center.

Absence Policy: Perfect attendance honors and recognitions will be discontinued for this 2020-21 school year so as not to promote students coming to class ill.

Doors: Families will be designated a door to enter and exit during class at OLV.

Clean and Sanitize: OLV uses a hospital grade sanitation system for the Church and the Parish Life Center building, including all classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and more. The building will be sanitized on Monday or Tuesdays after Class each week. They use a spray form that covers all areas in the building as well as our janitor wipes down the restrooms. The building will be sanitized again on Fridays each week before the classes resume. No one will be using our space for any other events, except for the Parish Life Center. In that case, it will be cleaned before students are allowed in the room.

Ventilation: We are ensuring that our air conditioning will be on each Sunday. For the first couple of months of class, I am asking our catechists to bring in blankets that can be left in the classroom and sanitized each week. These can be used to take our classrooms outdoor when the weather is nice, so be sure to be a light jacket with your children if it is a bit chilly in the mornings you arrive.

Water Systems: Our drinking fountain will be shut off. We will have cups that can be used in the restroom if a child wants a drink of water during class. Otherwise a child can bring their water container if properly marked and keep it by them while in class each Sunday.

Modified Layouts: Class sizes are limited and only 10 students a week can be in a classroom. Students will be staggered at tables, facing the same direction.

Materials and supplies: Hand sanitizer is available as mentioned above, as well as hand washing with soap and water will be encouraged.

Each student in the lower grades will have an extra large zipper lock bag that their book, crayons, glue stick, scissors, and markers will go into with their name on it. The child is the only one to touch these bags and items in it to ensure sanitation.

Additional policies and procedures:

- Covid-19 Tracking Form will be used for volunteers and students who may be infected.
- If a student becomes positive for COVID-19, that child and their family members from other classes will be quarantined until tested negative.
- If all were wearing a mask in class, including the teacher, only the child and their family members have to be quarantined per the health department.
- We will contact all in the classroom of the student to make them aware of the positive case and that they were possibly exposed.
- We do not have to report to the health department, because if they tested positive, it was already sent to the health department.

If tested positive for COVID-19 you can be with others after:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and
- Symptoms have improved.
- You will not be allowed back into the in class sessions until you receive two negative results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

If you tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms:

- If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days have passed since test.
- You can return to class once you receive two negative results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

August 28th, 2020