

Father Thomas M. Niehaus
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
206 Vine Avenue W
Montgomery, Minnesota 56069

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your patience in these very unusual times as we address details related to the religious instruction and catechesis of our area students. I wish to provide you with an update on our response as a Catholic community to the COVID-19 aka Coronavirus situation which is evolving rapidly. As parish priest of Most Holy Redeemer/St. Canice and St. Patrick it is my responsibility to work with my superiors in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to ensure that a unified message and approach is carried out in the handling of all situations related to this public health pandemic when it comes to parish life.

For the duration of this public health emergency, I am declaring that all religious instruction is to continue via on-line, email, and phone based teaching with at-home learning to be carried out on a weekly basis. On-site Wednesday evening instruction is to be suspended until the all-clear is given by public and Church officials. The remainder of the faith formation year continues until May 6, 2020. The first step is to invite parents to come and pick up the materials/books that their child has been using from each site so that they have the proper faith formation items that will aid them in their education in the faith. Teachers or coordinators or designated volunteers will help to facilitate this materials pick-up. I am encouraging each teacher on a weekly basis to email or text a weekly assignment by Wednesday morning using the following format:

1. Prayer
2. Read Assignment/Watch Video
3. Questions for Discussion or Written Responses
4. Activity
5. Prayer

In addition to the on-line, email and phone based learning opportunities, I encourage families to watch the Holy Mass together on the weekend which can be found at EWTN.com or the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis website. It is important to follow carefully the provisions of the health authorities, but it is also essential that our spiritual lives be strengthened during these difficult times. I invite families and individuals to engage in prayer—to pray the rosary, to read the Scriptures, to write letters of encouragement to the lonely and sick in our communities, and to pray for those who are directly or indirectly impacted by the COVID-19 situation.

Be assured of my prayers for you during this time. United in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Tom Niehaus