



Religious Education Update

October 1, 2021

Hello Parents,

We are so excited to see many of you back at Mass each week, but we are still missing so many of you! Please remember that the Eucharist is the source and summit of all we do as Catholics, and the hour we spend at Mass is much more important than the hour we spend at Religious Education.

CHANGE OF FORMAT (GRADES 1 TO 5)

In light of recently updated Covid guidelines from the Archdiocese, we have decided to change the format for Fall Religious Education for Grades 2 through 5. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

The main focus of the program will be on the celebration of Sunday Mass and discipleship - being sent into the community to share the good news in word and in deed. We will offer a combination of home school, live Zooms, and community outreach challenges. We will be having grade level Masses once a month and plan to include the children as lectors, ushers, greeters, and gift bearers. (The 5th graders will start us off this weekend, October 3 at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's!)

EDGE (GRADES 6 & 7) AND ROC (GRADES 8 & 9)

The format for grades 6 through 9 is still being worked out, and we hope to have some more information available for you soon. In the meantime, middle school and high school students are strongly encouraged to join us for the 6 p.m. Life Teen Mass at St. Mary's.

DRIVE BY BOOK PICK UP (GRADES 1 TO 5)

St. Mary's Parish Center, 392 Hanover St, Hanover

Monday, October 4 to Friday, October 8 between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Parents will be able to pick up materials for grades 1 to 5

For safety's sake, please plan to enter the parking lot from the Spring Street side and exit the parish center parking lot onto Route 139.

GRADE 1, 3, 4, & 5 BOOK SERIES

We will be using the "Be My Disciples" book series for grades 1, 3, 4, & 5 again this year. We are excited to try and help you take that title and apply it to your life as a family. We want Religious Education to be a meaningful experience for the whole family this year. We will provide the physical book and access to the online book to give your child many ways to access our curriculum.

GRADE 2 BOOK SERIES

The second graders will be using the "Blessed" series from Dynamic Catholic again this year. It was definitely a fan favorite last year! The book is written like a story book which can be read together and has short, three to five minute videos that go along with each lesson. There is also a Mass journal for your child to write down something they take away from Mass each week.

FIRST CLASS FOR GRADES 2 TO 5

The first virtual class for grades 2 through 5 will be the week of October 18 during your regular class time (beginning at 4:30 p.m.). We will Zoom for 15 to 20 minutes and give you your first assignment as disciples. We will continue to meet each week at our regularly scheduled time on Zoom, that way it is already a part of your schedule and will create for an easier transition back to in-person learning. While we are virtual, second grade students and parents can join the Zoom session on either Monday or Tuesday, whichever best fits your schedule.

We are very excited to start this new year, and hope that we will be back together in our classrooms a little later this fall. For now, we are looking forward to seeing your faces at church and on our computer screens. Each grade will get a specific email with their Zoom link the week of October 11.

Stay well and we hope to see you at church soon!

Mrs. Maura Dowling & Mrs. Karen Gill

Religious Education Coordinators

Grades 1 - 5

Tim Habeeb

Youth Minister

Grades 6 - 12

P.S. Email is our primary form of communication, so please register with an email address you check regularly and do not unsubscribe from receiving our emails. In order to make sure Religious Education emails do not go to your spam or junk folder, please add "mail@flocknote.com" to your safe sender list.