



Saint Theresa Religious Education

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Dear families of St. Theresa's Parish

We hope you are all doing well and staying healthy! We miss you here at St. Theresa's! As you know, the situation with COVID-19 is constantly evolving. Thank you for your patience and input over these last couple of months.

First and foremost, we want you to know that both the pastoral care and safety of your child(ren) are our top priorities. In preparing for our student's return, we have found hope from our faith throughout these times of uncertainty and are anxious to share the Gospel as a light to our world.

We are working to ensure that the 2020-2021 catechetical year will be a joyous one. We do hope this year's modified format will meet the needs of your family. To be cautious, we are alternating our program's in-classroom meeting schedule to every other week (except for our Sacramental grades, which will meet weekly). With this model, there will only be 3 grades attending religious education during one given day.

Our program will commence on Sunday, November 8th with *only* grades 1, 4, and 6. The following week, Sunday, November 15th *only* grades 3, 5 and 8 will meet. The start time remains the same, 8:30am until 9:45am. This rotating schedule will remain in place until we are confident that it is safe to bring all our students back weekly. The Sacrament grades, 2, 9, and 10 will meet every week, on Thursday evenings, starting November 5th. Our Confirmation Candidates (grades 9 & 10) start time is 6:00pm until 7:30pm. Our First Holy Communion (grade 2) students will start at 6:00pm and conclude at 7:15pm.

While we cannot substitute the value of meeting in person for religious education, on the "off" Sunday's each student will have an assignment to complete and hand-in when they return to class the following week. Included in this letter is the school year calendar, indicating when each grade will be attending their in-classroom sessions. We will keep you informed of any procedure and schedule protocol changes, if needed.

Due to our program's modified format, it is essential that students attend each of their in-classroom sessions, except for illness. If absences do occur, we will forward your child's assignment to you so they will be prepared when they do return to class.

Another necessary modification in keeping safety a priority, when each child enters the building, they will have their temperature taken with a touchless thermometer, as well as being given a "squirt" of hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will also be available in each classroom. Students will be reminded to wash their hands when using the rest room.

All students should be wearing masks while on church property, as well as maintain social distancing. Students will be assigned seating to aid in keeping social distancing along with having desks 6 feet apart from each other. Catechists will also wear face coverings. Finally, all areas will be cleaned and sanitized before and after class each week.

What will student dismissal look like? To maintain social distancing, we will not be dismissing your child from the Fr. Lamothe Center at this time. Please plan to meet your child outside the church building. For grades 1 thru 6, your child's teacher will accompany them outdoors. As our weather is turning inclement, please be on time to collect your child.

More than ever, it is imperative that you NOT send your child to religious education classes if they are showing signs of a cold or have a temperature of 100.4 or above. Do NOT send your child if they are showing any COVID-19 symptoms, if they have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, tested positive or are currently quarantined.

To further review this year's format and answer questions, I am holding a parent meeting on Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30pm. To maintain social distancing, I will hold this meeting in the church. I look forward to seeing you and reviewing how we can meet your child(ren)'s religious education needs. I have also enclosed this year's registration form. You may either bring it to our meeting, drop it off at our parish office, or return it at the start of our first in-class session.

I welcome any feedback, questions, or concerns you may have prior to our parent meeting. It is our hope to continue to serve each of our family's children, even during these unprecedented times. You may contact me via my cell 508-254-3440 or email at ccdreligiouseducation@gmail.com.

Please know you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. May God continue to watch over and bless you!

Yours in Christ,

Toni M Harvey
Religious Education Coordinator