

St. John Vianney/St Thomas the Apostle Religious Education 2020/2021
Grades 1-8

This year we will be using a program called *Gospel Weeklies*. The lessons are based on the Sunday Gospel. Children learn their faith – including formation in doctrine, sacraments, commandments, and prayer – within the rhythms and seasons of the Liturgical Year.

The program consists of a Catechism handbook – *What the Church Believes and Teaches* – for each child, plus weekly Gospel-based lessons. The handbook leads children to understand the basics of the Catholic faith. The weekly lessons inspire them to seek out ways to practice their faith in their daily lives. A special section in the weekly lessons and guides integrates each lesson with doctrine the handbook. Every lesson reinforces the need for parents and children to actively participate in the Sunday Mass and the life of the Church.

This program is home-based. You, the parent, will be working with your child throughout the year. You will pick up the Catechism handbook and weekly lessons at St. Thomas. The lessons are in eight-week bundles, to be distributed 4 times throughout the year. You can also elect to receive a digital edition of the program. Regardless of which format you choose, there are Parent Teaching Guides available for all levels. After each lesson, there is an online assessment, approximately 4 or 5 questions that the child will complete and it will be emailed to the child's teacher. There will also be a unit assessment after each eight-week unit of program. Again, this will be emailed to the child's teacher. You will have one week to complete the lesson and submit the assessment to your child's teacher.

Also, once every 4 weeks, your child will come to St. Thomas for an in-person class. We will have two grades per week so we can maintain the social distance guidelines; the children will need to wear a mask. The schedule of in-person classes will be handed out at the beginning of the school year. We hope to have all the materials available for pick up so we can begin the program on October 4, 2020.

The cost of the program is \$25.00 per child. The \$25.00 fee you paid at registration covers the first child, or in some cases, the only child, with \$25.00 due for each additional child. The fee would be due by the start of the program, October 4.

Please contact me with your questions and concerns. We worked hard to find a program to help your child through this religious education school year based on your concerns during this difficult time.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience while we were making these decisions.

Debbie Wickham, DRE
debbie@ststthomasjohn.org
973-208-0096