

# PREP Newsletter

Issue: September 2020 St. Mary Magdalen Church

## The times they are a-changin'

I grew up during the 60's, and one of the popular musicians of the time was Bob Dylan. He wrote a lot of folk songs with meaning for those in both the civil rights and anti-war movements of the times, and I have been reminded of many of them as I look around our world today! We actually used some of them at Mass in those days!

This year has brought all of us many changes. I am still struggling with some of them, as I'm sure all of you are! Our Extraordinary Ministers to the Sick still can't visit our parishioners in nursing homes; they call them regularly, but it just isn't safe, for them or for us. Our churches are limited in numbers, we can't give the sign of peace, communion ends the mass – the list goes on and on. And technology - ! I am trying to get myself accustomed to using Google Meet, Google Classroom and Google Drive instead of Zoom and Word, but it is not easy and I am still working out how to do some of the things I used to do in a gathering in a virtual format. So as the morning traffic guide always says, pack your patience! We are all learning, and while it may not be perfect every time, or ANY time, God is always with us.

Please continue to hold me and your child's catechists in prayer as we work our way through this new world!

*Karen*



## IN THIS ISSUE

Director's message

COVID CHANGES

When it's virtual

NEW arrival/dismissal policy

**Remember – your child's catechist is not allowed to email him/her directly! They will be emailing YOU invitations to join Google meetings, and once you accept it with your child they will need to rename themselves with their actual name so they can take attendance. I believe that once they are all in the class, it is easier – it's just getting them all in there to begin! While the first virtual class isn't until the end of October, they will be trying to get in touch before that – so be sure to check those emails and your spam!**

## **BRING TO CLASS EACH IN-HOUSE TIME**

Your activity folder (kindergarten)

Your text book (grades 1-5)

A notebook (grade 6)

Your Pflaum Gospel Weekly (grade 7)

Your folder (grade 8)

### **PLUS**

Pencils, age-appropriate scissors, crayons, colored pencils or markers, your own Kleenex, a glue stick, a water bottle (if desired) and your MASK! We are not allowed to store these items in the classroom!

**REMEMBER!**  
**IN-HOUSE CLASSES BEGIN ON**  
**OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9:30-11AM**

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR NEW ENTRY & DISMISSAL**  
**INFORMATION**

## September Calendar

September 20<sup>th</sup> – materials pickup for all families last names beginning A through K 9:15-10:30

September 27<sup>th</sup> – materials pickup for all families last names beginning L through Z 9:15-10:30

Parents of second graders, it is my intention (if I can figure out Google Meet) to have a sacramental meeting soon and will be sending along the information as soon as I can!

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

For many years, our parish has celebrated the Liturgy of the Word for Children at the 9AM Mass during the school year. This year, because of COVID, mass times have changed, but we are still looking to hold it during the 8:30 Mass time. They are working now to figure things out, and when they do I will be sure to pass on any information!

### **CHANGES MADE TO ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL POLICY**

After speaking to several parents, and after observing how long the masses are running, I have changed what I sent out initially in the hopes that it will be safer for our students!

#### **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

1. Respect social distancing for arrival and dismissal.
2. For arriving, we will have a moving car line out FRONT at the Sharpley Road entrance. You will pull up, stop, let your child out, and they will enter the building. When they go down the stairs, a sanitizing station is there, as well as at the classroom door.
3. For dismissal, catechists will bring the children to the MAIN entrance in the rear, beginning with the older children and ending with the younger. Only children will go to their parents' car, but those with younger siblings will wait to the side under the portico until their younger sibling appears so that they can walk together to the car. If you can put a sign with your last name on it in the front window, that would be helpful!
4. Parents/guardians are required to remain an appropriate distance from the school building/meeting space or in their vehicles at dismissal if possible.
5. A volunteer will be at the entrance door during PREP to monitor.
6. If a student requires an early dismissal, a request must be made in writing and an aide will bring them to the assigned door for dismissal. The parent may not enter the building.

## CONFIRMATION

Current 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be making their Confirmation in 5 different celebrations Saturday and Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Please keep them in your prayers!