



Parish Catechetical Ministry  
Echoing the Name Jesus

## **SAFE RETURN TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PLAN**

### **SAFETY GOAL**

The goal of our **Safe Return to Religious Education Plan** in response to COVID-19 is to ensure that all members, catechists, catechist aides, students and families remain safe while attending Religious Education at Saint Francis of Assisi Church. Our first priority is the safety of all people who use the Parish facilities.

All persons are required to wear face coverings, sanitize hands and practice social distancing. The Parish Center will be regularly sanitized and disinfected per CDC and Diocese of Venice recommendations and guidelines.

During this time, it is understandable that some parents will not feel comfortable sending their children to in-person classes. But, we are encouraged that following CDC recommendations, DOV guidelines and our Parish policies we will be providing a safe environment to teach your children. A homeschooling program has been developed for those that prefer to homeschool at this time.

### **SECURITY REMINDER**

Our Parish has a Parish Safety Team and we have procedures to promote the safety and security of persons using the Parish facilities. The Parish has provided for a Deputy Sheriff to be present during the hours of our Religious Education(K-8) classes.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PERSONNEL**

All Religious Education personnel shall enter and exit through the same exterior entry door. All exterior doors are locked except for the main entrance, which is monitored while class is in progress to prevent unauthorized access. The entry door will remain locked and only authorized Parish personnel will permit access to the building. Interior or exterior doors are never propped open for any reason. A video camera monitors all personnel entering the facility.

The Parish Staff will do a simple screening of Catechists, Catechist Aides, and student's Parents/Guardians/Caregivers. Personnel will complete a questionnaire along with temperature checks. Personnel without the appropriate approvals will not be granted access.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTION**

Volunteers should self-monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19 and if they exhibit any, they should not volunteer. Parents should self-monitor and should monitor their children, and if they or their children exhibit any signs of COVID-19 or have a fever greater than 100.4 they should not bring their children to class. In an effort to minimize exposure to COVID-19, Personal Protection Equipment shall be used to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- **Face Coverings:** Face coverings are required for all personnel entering the Parish Center. Face coverings have proven to be an important part of protecting each other.
- **Personal Hygiene:** Handwashing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection. Hands should be washed with clean water and soap. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds. Alcohol-based hand cleaners can also be used to clean hands. Hands should be cleaned when they are dirty, after using the restroom, before and after preparing food, after coughing or sneezing into hands, etc. Avoid touching your face as the virus is transmitted through mucous membranes in the mouth, nose and eyes.
- **Social Distancing:** Social distancing is one way to prevent potential infection. All personnel in the Parish Center should practice social distancing and eliminate contact with others. Social distancing will be used in restrooms. Personnel shall social distance while waiting to

enter the restroom. No more than four people will be allowed to access the restroom at any one time.

- **Contact:** Eliminate contact with others at all times. No handshakes, or hugging. Teachers and students will remain in their assigned classrooms. Teachers are asked to disinfect their own personal workspace giving special attention to commonly touched surfaces.

## **CLASSROOMS**

Each classroom will note the capacity on the door. The number of people in each classroom will be restricted by size of classroom. Each student will use their own assigned materials. Avoid sharing books, supplies, games or other learning aides; if sharing is necessary due to limited supply, clean and disinfect between different students. No snacks and/or refreshments will be permitted in the classrooms to avoid the risk of contamination.

## **BUILDING CLEANING/DISINFECTING**

Upon reopening, the Parish Center including restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected using standards provided by the CDC. Continued cleaning and disinfecting will be done as required, adhering to all safety precaution recommended by the CDC and DOV. At a minimum, the Parish Center will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

## **COVID HEALTH PROTOCOL**

While we hope to avoid exposure to COVID-19, we need to be prepared for that possibility. If a Catechist/Catechist Aide or student becomes ill while in attending Religious Education, the DRE will ask the Catechist/Catechist Aide to make immediate arrangements to leave the facility. If it is a student, DRE will contact their parent/guardian and escort the student outside to wait for pick-up. The DRE or authorized personnel will stay with the child until their parents pick them up.

After student/catechist or aide have left the premises, DRE will complete a "Suspected COVID-19 Case Form" and make a contact tracing list of anyone who the individual has come in contact with during their visit.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you may return to Religious Education when each of the following criteria have been met.

1. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
2. At least 72 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
3. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

If you have symptoms that could be COVID-19 and do not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, it is assumed that you have the coronavirus and may not return to Religious Education until the three criteria above have been met.