



St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

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FAITH FORMATION COVID-19 CLASS OPTIONS & HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

Updated August 3, 2020

Father Norm and St. Peter's Staff are excited to share our Faith Formation COVID-19 Class Option & Health and Safety Plan for 2020-2021. Ongoing catechesis is so vital in the lives of our young people. **We want to offer safe options so that all families and children can continue on this important journey.**

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church is dedicated to preventing the transmission of COVID-19. We are following CDC guidelines for sanitation, social distancing, and face coverings. Even with these precautions, infections are still possible and may result in serious illness or even death. If you have concerns about your child's safety, or your child or someone in your household is in a vulnerable population, you may opt to have your child participate in religious education/youth ministry online or by correspondence. If you have questions about whether your child or a family member is in a vulnerable population, please visit the CDC website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-NCOV/need-extra-precautions/>.

The following safety procedures will be implemented for all Faith Formation gatherings.

Before, During, and After Faith Formation Gatherings

1. Cleaning/Sanitizing Common Spaces/Touchpoints

While surface spread of COVID-19 is less common than previously reported, we will continue to disinfect all common touch surfaces before and after a group gathers. This includes, but is not limited to, tables, chairs, light switches, doorknobs, and microphones/audio equipment. In addition, a commercial fog machine will be used to disinfect the entire building after each gathering. This is the same system that is used in the church after each Mass.

2. Face Masks

Everyone is required to wear a face mask at all times.

3. Temperature Checks

A temperature check will be done on everyone before they are allowed to enter the buildings. Participants with a temperature of 100 or greater will be asked to not attend.

4. Entry and Exit Procedures

A specific building entry and exit route will be established and communicated before gatherings take place. All participants will be required to adhere to this route.

5. Social Distancing

Participants will continue to socially distance at gatherings, especially while indoors or in enclosed spaces.

6. No Physical Contact

Participants are to avoid physical contact with one another. This includes, but is not limited to, hand shaking, hugging, fist bumps, high fives, or any games/activities where physical contact is required.

7. Use of playground equipment outside the Family Life Center and St. Francis buildings will not be permitted.

8. Hall Monitors will be in place to help ensure adherence to all implemented safety measures.

Reporting and Communication

1. If a participant, chaperone, or staff member shows symptoms of or tests positive for COVID-19 after an event

- Individuals will be advised to follow CDC reporting guidelines.
- If a participant should become ill, they should immediately contact their doctor.
- The pastor, Faith Formation staff member, or other individual designated by the pastor will submit a COVID-19 incident report to Risk Management.
- Individuals known to have contracted COVID-19, or who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, should not return until completing a 14-day self-quarantine, followed by at least 72 hours of no symptoms. Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 should not participate in activities until they have self-quarantined for 14 days from date of exposure.

2. Feedback/Adjustment

- These recommendations will be reviewed and revised as necessary on a regular basis to ensure that they are adequate responses to changing conditions.
- Recommendations may be relaxed or increased based on the recommendations of federal, state, and local health departments.

Please direct any questions to the respective Faith Formation Staff Member:

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Faith Formation Class Options by Grade Level

Elementary Faith Formation (EFF) - Alternating Weeks In-Person Option

- Sunday 9:30-10:45 am & Wednesday 4:30-5:45 pm
- Kindergarten through 5th grade
- September 13th (16th), 2020 - April 25th (28th), 2021
- Total enrollment for each session is 18 students and 2 Catechists.
- Sessions will be split in half; groups of 9 will meet in-person every other week. During their at-home week, they will use their book and other materials to complete the lesson.
- Catechists will utilize curriculum published by *Our Sunday Visitor*.
- Any additional resources will be posted on the St. Peter's Elementary Faith Formation & Good Shepherd Facebook group page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/effandgs>.
- Communication to families will continue via Flocknote, Facebook, the bulletin and the website.
- Children may return to in-person weekly classes when it is deemed there is low/no risk from COVID-19.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) - Alternating Weeks In-Person Option

- Sessions will be offered Sunday mornings 10:15-11:45 am, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons 4:15-5:45 pm and Tuesday mornings 9:30-11:30 am.
- Total enrollment for each session is 16 students and 2 Catechists.
- Sessions will be split in half; groups of 8 will meet in-person every other week.
- Materials will be provided for children to take home during their at-home week.
- Communication to families will continue via Flocknote, Facebook, the bulletin and the website.
- To stay true to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd model, which is based on the Montessori method, an online option is not available for presentations. For an online only option, please see the EFF and CGS online section as a replacement for classes.

Elementary Faith Formation and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Home-Based, Online Option

- We will use an online curriculum from the publisher, Our Sunday Visitor.
- Families using the online curriculum will receive instructions on how to access the online lessons for each grade level/child.
- Lessons will be completed weekly and Catechists will monitor progress via the built-in feature online.
- Students will have access to the Digital books and other materials via an online platform.
- Access to online lessons will be flexible in order to fit the family's schedule; however, work needs to be completed within one week of when the lesson is assigned.
- Any additional resources will be posted on St. Peter's Elementary Faith Formation & Good Shepherd Facebook group page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/effandgs>.
- Communication to families will continue via Flocknote, Facebook, the bulletin and the website.
- Children may return to in-person weekly classroom attendance when it is deemed there is low/no risk from COVID-19. At that time, classes will be capped off at normal maximum room occupancy.

EDGE (Middle School Faith Formation)

- EDGE will continue to be held in-person on Wednesday Nights from 6:30-8:30 pm.
- We will utilize space in both the Activity Center (Gym) and Cana Ballroom. This will allow for social distancing.
- To help ensure social distancing, there will be no sports during social time.
- Pre-packaged snacks and bottles of water will be available during social time in place of the \$5 meal deals. There will be no charge for snacks, but monetary donations will be accepted. Middle Schoolers are welcome to bring their own food for social time.
- Middle Schoolers who need to leave EDGE early need to inform Hannah ahead of time.
- Middle Schoolers will be split into grade-specific small groups.
- Small groups will remain the same for at least the entire semester. This follows the cohort-based model recommended by the CDC.

EDGE Home-Based Online Option

- Families who do not feel comfortable sending their child to EDGE in person may select a Tuesday night digital EDGE session.

Life Teen (High School Faith Formation)

- Life Nights will continue to be held in person on Sunday evenings after Life Teen Mass, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the Cana Ballroom and Family Life Center.
- Meals will not be provided. Pre-packaged snacks and bottled water will be available. There will be no charge for snacks, but monetary donations will be accepted. Teens are welcome to bring their own food for social time.
- Teens will be required to sign in each week.
- Large group activity (social time, opening, proclaim talk) will take place in the Cana Ballroom in order to provide more room for social distancing.
- Small group discussion will consist of groups of no more than 10 teens and 2 adult core members. Small groups will utilize the FLC classrooms or can gather outside around the church campus if the weather permits.
- Teens will be assigned to the same small group for the entire semester, following the cohort-based model recommended by the CDC.

Life Teen Home-Based Online Option

- For any families who do not feel comfortable with their teen attending Life Nights, an online home-based option will be available. Teachings (proclaim talks) will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube. Any additional resources for the weekly lesson will be emailed to teens and parents.
- Freshman who are fulfilling their first year Confirmation requirements and choose the home-based online option will be required to turn in an assignment after each lesson in order to verify that they are participating. If the required assignment is not turned in within a week of the lesson, it will be considered an absence.

High School Confirmation

- Confirmation sessions will continue to be held in person on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm. Teens may begin arriving at 6:30 pm for social time.
- Meals will not be provided. Pre-packaged snacks and bottled water will be available. Teens are welcome to bring their own food for social time.
- Attendance will be taken in classrooms each week.
- There will be no large group gatherings. All teens will report directly to their assigned classroom each week.
- Classes will consist of groups of no more than 10 teens and 2 adult core members. Small groups will utilize the FLC classrooms or may gather outside around the church campus if the weather permits.
- Teens will be assigned to the same small group for the entire year as is the normal procedure, but this will also allow us to follow the cohort-based model recommended by the CDC.

High School Confirmation Online Home-Based Option

- An online home-based option will be available for any families who do not feel comfortable sending their teen to in-person Confirmation classes. Teachings (proclaim talk) will be recorded and uploaded to YouTube. Teens will be required to turn in an assignment after each lesson in order to verify that they are participating. If the required assignment is not turned in within a week of the lesson, it will be considered an absence.

Faith Formation Registration

- We highly encourage families to register their children for Faith Formation as soon as possible as this will help our staff plan and prepare accordingly. Registration forms are available on the parish website at stpetersboerne.com or can be picked up in the parish office. Please direct any questions to the respective Faith Formation staff member.
- A “drive through” registration will be held on Wednesday, September 2 at the BBQ pavilion on St. Peter’s campus. Parents can drop-off registration forms and the staff will be available to answer any questions.

Additional Faith Formation Details

- Parent orientations for each level of Faith Formation will be done via online video. Staff members will upload a video to St. Peter’s YouTube channel for their respective ministry. These video orientations will replace the normal in-person orientations that are held at the beginning of each school year.
- We are currently exploring ideas for more Family Catechesis opportunities to highlight Holy Days and Liturgical Seasons. These events will be “drive through style” and will take the place of our Family Faith Nights. More details to come!

Please note that this is a working document and may be changed or updated depending on current recommendations from federal, state, and local health departments as well as the Archdiocese of San Antonio. We will also closely monitor guidelines from the Boerne Independent School District.