

Brainerd Lakes Catholic Churches

Faith Formation 2020 – 2021 Covid-19 Policies, Procedures and FAQ's

As a Faith Formation Team, along with direction from the Diocese of Duluth as well as guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, we have implemented the following protocols in regards to Covid-19:

1. Anyone who is sick or has been in close contact with someone who is sick should stay home. This is true of any kind of illness. No one will be punished for missing Faith Formation and materials can be easily given out for those who ask for anything that was missed.
2. Facemasks/coverings are required to be worn by all staff, volunteers, and participants as per Executive Order 20-81.
3. Every effort will be made to maintain social distancing at all times.
4. Hand sanitizer will be made available for everyone to use, and everyone will be encouraged to wash their hands when they arrive/depart.
5. Occupancy for small group or classroom spaces will not exceed 50% of total capacity of the room.
6. Spaces used by Faith Formation will be disinfected prior to and after each class time.
7. The Pastor and Directors of Religious Education for the parishes will continuously monitor the situation and make changes as needed according to local information as it pertains to the Covid-19 illness.

Frequently asked questions for the 20-21 Faith Formation year:

1. Will students/staff/volunteers be required to wear masks?
 - a. Yes, unless they fall under any of the exemptions found on the MDH website regarding face mask coverings. We look forward to the days when we can see everyone's smile again!
2. We will be choosing at-home learning. What do I do now?
 - a. Please register your student(s) regardless of where they will have Faith Formation. If you choose to learn from home, you will receive whatever curriculum or materials that go along with your student's grade along with instruction from our staff. The cost will be the same whether they attend in-person or are at home to cover the cost of the books or other materials and subscriptions for that particular age.
3. We will start with at-home learning, but may change to in-person in time. Can my student come back?
 - a. Yes!!! Any of our students are welcome back at any time! Whether they wait two weeks, two months, or until the end of the Faith Formation year, we will gladly take anyone back to our in-person setting whenever they feel comfortable enough to come back. And vice-versa – if you choose to start the year with in-person learning and then decide

to go to at-home learning, this will also be an easy transition and we will provide whatever you need at home for this scenario.

4. I have a second grade student who will be preparing to receive First Reconciliation and First Communion this year. What will happen with Sacramental Prep this year?
 - a. You will receive more information on this soon. But briefly, Sacramental Prep will occur on scheduled Tuesday nights as part of the regular Elementary Faith Formation evenings. For those students who attend St. Francis School, they will be required to take part in this extra formation whether it is in person or at home. You will be notified of which nights this will be.
5. Will social distancing be enforced?
 - a. We will make every effort to ensure that social distancing can occur. We are blessed to have buildings with wide hallways and large rooms. Each classroom and small group area will stay at or below a 50% capacity for the space. While there will most likely be some instances when social distancing cannot occur, these will typically happen during arrival or departure of the buildings or rooms, and will primarily only last short periods of time.
6. If we choose to do at-home learning but would like to participate in some special events (adoration, confession, mass, outdoor activities, etc.), could we attend?
 - a. Yes!!! All three age groups will have a schedule of the year. If a special event will be offered it will be listed on there or you will be notified by email/mail/Facebook post of it happening.
7. Will Zoom or any other type of streaming be available for students who choose at-home learning?
 - a. At this time no. While we do want to keep the sense of community going with our small groups, there are a few reasons why we have chosen not to provide this option. (However, this too is a flexible item if, for example, all schools in the area go fully on-line with distance learning and we too choose that route)

Do you have a question that wasn't answered here? Or do you want more clarification on anything? Please do not hesitate to contact any of us at the office. This is a constantly changing situation, and we will make adjustments as needed. If you have any other concerns give us a call or email!

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