

Welcome Back to Religious Education 2021-2022!

Congratulations! We made it through COVID! Yes, we lost loved ones and yes we basically lost a year of many favorite activities, VBS, baseball, soccer, dance, musicals just to name a few. But we survived and hopefully we will be better people for enduring this pandemic. And hopefully we will one day soon ditch the face masks and begin to hug one another-or at least shake hands. But until that time, we will adhere to the COVID restrictions.

As of today, the Bishop has the dispensation for Sunday Mass still in place. We are blessed to have our celebrations live streamed, which is found on YouTube on our Web Site. And the other piece of good news is our Religious Education program is Lectionary Based, meaning we all study the Gospels for the upcoming weekend. One theme, one story, no matter the age, we all study the same gospel each week. I encourage you to embrace the materials we send home with your children and make it a "Key Piece of your family life".

To begin our year, you will receive the small book entitled *Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families*. Use this book each week, it has questions for the ride to Mass, on the way home, and then living The Word during the week! After this year, I hope you take every opportunity to pray, pray more as a family and have the opportunity to talk with your children about something very important—God! And where is/was God during our times of stress? Walking right by your side, empowering you to move on, do the right thing, help one another, love one another. Helping us pave the path to heaven!

Remember when you brought your child to the church for Baptism? You made a commitment to raise that child of God to the best of your ability as practicing Catholics. I'm here to pat you on the back and say Good Job! We know parents are the first and primary teachers of the faith. The Church entrusted you with that role, we are here to help you in any way possible. My ministry is to support and build up parents—to coach you as the primary catechist. And of course to support and enable our volunteers to be the best they can be in passing on our faith.

Our program is Pflaum Gospel Weeklies! Each week, every child K through 6th grade receives a 4-8 page flyer based on the weekend Gospel. In 2nd grade, we spend most of the year preparing for Reconciliation and Eucharist. In the 7/8th grade we move to the Chosen Program, which prepares our teens for the celebration of Confirmation. Service is a part of every grade!

Please read the Family Handbook for any and more information on our program. Also the session dates for 2021-2022 can also be found on the website!

May this year be a blessed and enriching experience for your family's faith journey! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or concerns.

Maureen Brennan