



PARISH FAITH FORMATION

Re-Opening Policies and Procedures
for Parents and Students of St Rita's Church



AT-A-GLANCE

Faith Formation

In January 2021 we will be return to offering in-person Formation classes for our youth and children. An online or homeschool version will also be available for families who choose to continue their child's(ren's) formation in the home.



HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE WITH YOU

*Our primary mode of communication will be email. **PLEASE** ensure that Amy and/or Kathy are saved as contacts or marked as 'safe senders' in your email so that their emails aren't sent to spam.*

Kathy: kkovarik@saintritas.org

Amy: aschroeder@saintritas.org



HOW TO ACCESS YOUR VIRTUAL FORMATION

Elementary videos will be on the website saintritas.org/elem-faith-formation-at-home

Middle/High School 'first fifteens' will be at the youtube link sent by Amy weekly.



Middle/High School Returns
1/13/2021

Elementary Students Return
1/17/2021



HOW IN PERSON WILL WORK

Elementary children will meet Sunday mornings between Masses.
9:40 – 10:25 am

Middle/High School Youth will come on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. We will begin in the Worship Space for our "First Fifteen" which will also be streamed on youtube for our home learners. Youth will then move to small groups for discussion and prayer.

WELCOME BACK!

Hello St Rita's Families, we know that for every family the need at this time is different, so we'll continue to offer several ways to support you parents in passing on our Catholic faith to your sons & daughters. We are ready to offer an in-person option faith formation again, and are excited to see their faces and experience their energy!

WINTER/SPRING 2021

OPTIONS FOR FAITH FORMATION (middle/high school)

- 1.) In-person Small Groups at the parish (weeks that you need to isolate we might be able to set up Zoom or Google sign in, depending on equipment availability.)
- 2.) At Home Parent Led - you'll watch our "first-fifteen" on youtube together, then teach the lesson yourself at home. *with option to come in for Large Groups
- 3.) Beginning or continuing the Traditional Homeschool program - with provided books and lessons. *with option to come in for Large Groups.

OPTIONS FOR FAITH FORMATION (elementary school)

- 1.) In-person faith formation classes at the parish. Sunday mornings from 9:40 to 10:25 am in between the Masses.
- 2.) At Home Parent Led – you will watch Kathy's weekly session on our website and share our faith with your child using the activities in the provided binder.

PREPARING FOR FLEXIBILITY

St Rita's wants you to know that we will be taking all the necessary precautions to provide your child(ren) with a clean and safe environment. We will continually monitor government guidelines and adjust accordingly. If your family needs to isolate, we will provide you with at home materials to help your child stay connected and on track.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

State and Archdiocesan Safety Standards during the pandemic

St Rita's Faith Formation

- Two leaders in every group with a maximum of 13 students in the group.
- Each small group leader will be provided with hand sanitizer, disinfecting spray & wipes and extra masks.
- All participants and leaders will be required to wear masks in the building.
- Groups will be located in spaces that are set up for appropriate social distancing and sanitized prior to sessions.
- Food/Snack distribution will be monitored once it is allowed. This will likely happen when restaurants re-open. Drinking fountains will be closed, participants can bring a bottle of water if necessary.
- We ask everyone to monitor the health of their child and keep them home if they've been exposed or are displaying any symptoms.

St Rita Preparedness Plan

The Church of St. Rita is committed to providing a safe and healthy space for our parishioners and have developed the following Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff and volunteers are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our parish. Only through cooperative effort, can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our parishioners and staff.

Staff and volunteers are responsible for implementing and complying with all aspects of this preparedness plan.

We are serious about safety and health at the Church of St Rita. Our preparedness Plan follows Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines and federal OSHA standards related to COVID-19 and addresses:

- Hygiene
- Respiratory etiquette
- Engineering and administrative controls for social distancing
- Housekeeping – cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination

Handwashing

Basic infection prevention measures are being implemented in our spaces. Handwashing for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently is encouraged, especially upon arrival and departure, prior to any meals and after using the toilet. Many areas and our volunteers will be provided with hand-sanitizers (that use sanitizers of greater than 60% alcohol) that can be used for hand hygiene in place of soap and water, as long as hands are not visibly soiled.

Our restrooms are inspected and cleaned daily. Signs from the CDC are posted in areas nearest workers to encourage handwashing and the use of hand sanitizers.

Respiratory Etiquette; Cover your cough or sneeze

Staff, volunteers and participants are instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose tissues in the trash and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward. Respiratory etiquette will be demonstrated on posters and supported by making tissues and trash receptacles available to all. The Church of St Rita has posted additional posters in the common areas of our buildings and the work areas related to this topic. We have purchased additional supplies. *Mask use is required at all times in accordance with state mandates.

Social Distancing

The Church of St. Rita has taken the following steps: Faith formation spaces will be setup up to ensure social distancing and students can participate through home formation if necessary. In common areas we have placed tape on the floor in six foot increments to serve as a reminder of social distancing. Signs from the CDC are posted in common areas to encourage handwashing and use of hand sanitizers and wearing masks.

Housekeeping

Custodial staff will conduct regular cleansing of all high traffic surface areas at least twice per building opening and staff/volunteers are asked to keep their areas of use clean/sanitized. The Church of St Rita will provide disinfecting wipes and spray to catechists for cleaning faith formation areas during programming. Spaces used for faith formation will be professionally cleaned following sessions.

