

Date: October 4, 2021

From: Belmonte, Rev. John <Belmonte@dioceseofvenice.org>

Hello,

As stated in Diocesan policy, any Religious Education program located in a county within the boundaries of the Diocese of Venice with a positivity rate below 10%, as established by the Florida Department of Health, will be mask optional for the coming week. Therefore, during the week of October 3 to October 8, all religious education programs located in Charlotte (9.8%), Collier (8.7%), Glade (7.1%), Hendry (5.5%), Lee (7.9%), Manatee (7.8%) and Sarasota (5.5%) will be mask optional, though the wearing of masks is still strongly encouraged.

The goal remains to provide a safe environment with appropriate protocols needed to ensure healthy, in-person learning. With this announcement, our gratitude goes out to the pastors/administrators, parents, catechists and Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education who continue to work together to ensure that our religious education programs are safe places for our students to learn and grow in faith and knowledge.

The Department of Education will continue to monitor the COVID-19 positivity rate by county using data provided weekly by the Florida Department of Health.

Please continue to pray for those affected by COVID-19 and the wellbeing of all parishioners.

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