

DEAR PARENTS,

Aug 25, 2020

The Pandemic has changed the world and we at St. Mary's have had to make many changes. The position of Director of Religious Education has been eliminated and will be assumed into the new position of Pastoral Associate for both St. Mary's and St. Augustin's. You may wish to thank Ms. Debra Circosta for her commitment to your children. Many families are still unwilling to return to church out of fear of Covid-19, so we are using this unique time to regroup. There is enough stress with the reopening of schools and everyday life; we do not want to add any more stress to your lives. We will all be safe eventually but only after many changes to what used to be "the normal."

FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS:

The children in the First Communion program will be considered to have passed the entire program thus there will be no need for further classes.

Since our numbers are so limited at regular Mass, I will have to either hold a special Mass for our class or parents may simply choose to bring their child to a regular Saturday/Sunday Mass and we will have your child and family approach the altar before anyone else receives at the end of Mass.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS:

There are very few options...

Two Confirmation Classes will join for one ceremony in the Fall of 2021 (hopefully). And if this looks like it cannot happen, we will then move into emergency mode to address the needs of the Class of 2020. No further details are available.

This year was like no other in the life of the church or our world for that matter. We will rise again.

REFUNDS:

The restarting of the Religious Education program depends on when a vaccine is widely available and on when I hire the new Pastoral Associate.

If any parent wants a refund for any money they may have given for the Summer Program, they may ask for it or may keep it with us for next year. The Religious Education program may change completely depending on the new Pastoral Associate's direction.

Thank you for your understanding and patience, and may God bless you in these troubling times.

Fr. Kris