

Dear Parishioners,

This pandemic brought such a sudden halt to everything we were accustomed to in our busy lives, including our faith formation classes. We hope that you and your families are healthy and have found some solace in having more time with each other and less on your “to do” list. We are writing to update you on plans for the 20-21 faith formation program at St. Bernard’s Church.

First, our 2020 Confirmation candidates will be confirmed on September 14, 15 and 21st. The second graders will finally make First Communion on September 13, 20, and 27th. It will be a very busy September!

As you are probably aware, the public schools in our area are offering some version of a hybrid learning program. We have also attended several virtual meetings with the Office of Faith Formation and other Directors in the Diocese to discuss the best options for continuing to share the faith with our children. We outline below a plan we have had approved by Fr. Jim and think is in the best interest of our students. We considered the number of students we have, the space available for social distancing, and the safety precautions that need to be in place.

Grade 1: Home Study (Books required and Curriculum Guide Provided)

Grades 3-8: Remote Program. Grade level books are required and can be purchased during registration. Books from the previous 3 years can be used. Parents can request their child’s book from last year upon request at registration. Specific self-paced work assignments for each grade level will be given. Video lessons, resources and other requirements will be posted monthly on the church website. In addition, live sessions will be available. An end of year assessment will be given.

Grades 2: Sacramental year students preparing to receive their First Communion will meet in person, in the church hall. Students can select either a Sunday morning from 9:20 - 10:20, 11:30 – 12:30 or a Wednesday afternoon from 5:00-6:00pm. This is to ensure we can safely space students apart for learning in the classrooms.

Grade 9, Life Teen: Sacramental year students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will meet one Sunday per month in the church hall. The groups will be divided (once we have registration numbers) to ensure we can safely space students apart for learning.

3:00-4:30 PM (Last names A-?)

5:00-6:30 PM (Last names? -Z)

To adhere to COVID requirements, all on-site grade 2 and grade 9 students will be required to wear masks and must comply with safe distance protocols. Common areas will be cleaned before and after each class.

We understand that every family needs to make a decision that fits their needs. We will do everything possible to work within our means to make this a safe and meaningful year of CCD for everyone. Please be patient with us as we embark on this new journey.

God Bless,

Brian and Marlene