

St. Francis of Assisi
Religious Education Program
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August 25, 2020

Dear families,

We understand that it has been a stressful few months, with COVID-19 and distance learning but we have been granted permission to return back to classes this year and we are very excited about seeing the kids once again. Of course, we will be doing everything within our power and according to guidelines given to us by the Office of Superintendent, NY State Governor and the Archdiocese of NY.

A packet of our guidelines and protocols will be given to you so you can see exactly what we will be doing to help protect the safety of not only your children but the catechists and volunteers as well. We would not be opening if we did not feel that we could protect all involved.

There will be a few changes for this year so that we can accommodate everyone so I ask that you please read this letter and the guidelines book in its entirety so you can understand it completely. Do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

We will be asking any child who has a compromised immune system to consider learning at home, with strict guidelines to follow, and meeting me throughout the year on a smaller scale so we may check that the work is being understood. Failure to follow will result in repeating of grade the next year.

We will make accommodations as needed. We understand that this will be a strange year not only for the students but the adults as well. We ask that we try to keep the continuity going as safely as possible.

**We are also having ALL third graders “homeschooled” this year, again with a contract and following strict guidelines. They will have a hard cover book and activity sheets as well as access to online learning through the publisher. Grades 1-5 will have access to online learning as well.

If a catechist comes forth, who is wishing to teach third grade, then we can open slots for up to 12 students to be in a classroom setting, instead of home.

All other grades 1, 2, 4, & 5 will continue to meet either on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons, starting at 4:15. It is important for first graders to meet in person for “community building” This is the year we introduce them to the church and really get to know the child before they proceed into our Sacramental program the following year.

Please read about our start up and pick up in the packet. We will NOT be meeting in the Church as we used to.

Grades 6 & 7 will again meet on Wednesday evenings also following arrival and dismissal procedures starting at 6:30pm

Confirmation class will meet on Tuesday evenings starting at 6:30pm

If you need financial assistance, please contact office: further information is in guidelines book

Volunteers are urgently needed to help with arrival, dismissal, hall monitors, temperature taking and more. If you are willing to help clean after our sessions, you may be able to be given tuition deduction. Please speak to Fr. Clark at 914-666-5986.