



APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

**YOUTH**

**FAITH**

**FORMATION**

2021-2022  
COVID PROTOCOLS

## THESE COMMITMENTS HAVE DRIVEN OUR DECISIONS

### **Child's Whole Well-Being**

As a Catholic Church, we take seriously the responsibility to develop the whole child: physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The last year has forced us to make the physical needs of our children the highest priority, arguably to the detriment of other aspects. While maintaining high levels of physical safety will always be a priority, we recognize the students' need to return to the in-person gatherings with the highest level of normalcy possible while maintaining their safety and health.

### **Safety**

The health and safety of our students and volunteers will remain a high priority. Our protocols and procedures are built upon guidance from the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

### **Flexibility**

Although much progress has been made in our efforts to mitigate COVID-19 in our community, it continues to be a part of our lives. As the situation changes, it will be important for us to remain flexible. We may need to change our protocols with the changing pandemic environment.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINE

### **Cleaning**

Protocols for regular cleaning/disinfecting of spaces and items are in place.

### **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing of 3 feet is recommended by the CDC when and where possible. Small group interaction is an important part of the faith formation of our students and will be permitted. When space allows, 3 feet of distance between students will be observed provided it does not: 1) disproportionately impact child development or the faith formation goals or 2) limit our ability to offer in-person learning to all our students.

### **Hand Sanitizing**

Hand sanitizer will be available and students will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water.

## Health Screenings

Families will be responsible for daily health screening prior to their student attending Faith Formation Classes. Please do not have your child attend Faith Formation events if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or has been above 100.4 within the last 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications)
- New Cough (for students with chronic allergic/ asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Has been asked to quarantine by school district or Public Health

## Masks

Parents and guardians are well-positioned to determine if their child should wear a face covering while outside of the home and out in the community. No student will be prevented from wearing a face covering. We will work to reduce any stigmatization associated with the decision to wear or not wear a face covering. We will continue to foster communities of respect and kindness, whether masked or unmasked.

While this is the current conditions, we will continue to monitor local cases to determine if masks will be required at a later date. Our main criteria in determining if masks are required include:

- Rates per 10,000 based on country COVID-19 Weekly Report
- Positivity Rates of Faith Formation Students
- Compliance of families in keeping children home if presenting symptoms of illness.

## Quarantines

Minnesota Department of Health no longer requires school leaders to quarantine individuals, entire classrooms, or groups of students on account of potential exposure to COVID19. If an individual tests positive for COVID, the person who tests positive will work directly with Public Health to notify anyone who may have been a close contact.

## At Home Faith Formation

We understand that all families may not feel comfortable attending in-person Faith Formation classes. If you would like to do at home Faith Formation for your family, please contact Mary Grack and she will assist you.

## Moving Forward

This plan was created based on the current situation, and it is imperative that we remain flexible in the months ahead. There may come a time when the need to pivot to a new set of guidelines will arise. At that time, we will re-evaluate and use the most current data to modify this plan. The 2020-2021 academic year was proof that we are capable of doing great things with flexibility and grace, and we hope this year will run even more smoothly. We move forward in joyful hope, knowing that brighter days lie ahead. Thanks to all who continue to go the extra mile to live out our mission to be the loving face of Christ to each and every person in our communities. Pray for each other.