

ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2020-2021

REVISED: 8/17/2020

Q: What is different about Religious Education classes during the COVID 19 pandemic?

A: The Religious Education program for the 2020-2021 year is 100% online for grades 1-7. Confirmation 2 (usually grade 8) will meet weekly as originally planned. Students receiving First Penance and First Communion (usually grade 2) will meet in person several times throughout the year for age appropriate, hands-on sacramental preparation lessons and retreats. Dates for these onsite classes will be announced at a later date.

Q: How will attendance be taken for online students?

A: Every year, St. Jude parents show consistent dedication to their children's attendance at Religious Education classes. During the pandemic, this kind of commitment to weekly attendance remains important for both the weekly and online student. Therefore, attendance will be taken every week for all students enrolled in the program. *My Catholic Faith Delivered*, the online program we are using this year, allows the Director of Religious Education to see the weekly progress of each student, including how many minutes the child took to complete the lesson. Attendance credit will be given when the child has read the chapter, completed the activities and successfully taken the assessment.

Q: What if our family has health concerns and/or does not feel comfortable attending on-site classes?

A: St. Jude will not require anyone with health concerns or who is uncomfortable to come to an onsite class. Please contact Nancy Simms at religioused@stjudechurch.us if this is an issue for your family.

Q: What is being done to keep our students/volunteers more safe during the pandemic?

A: The following protocols have been put in place for this year:

1. The number of students in each session has been greatly reduced
2. Class size is capped at 9-12 students; social distancing measures have been put in place
3. A professional cleaning crew has been hired to clean between the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions
4. Student supplies will not be shared
5. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom
6. Parents do not need to come into the building to drop off/pick up their child/ren. Specific details about this new procedure will be emailed to families closer to the start date of classes
7. All adult volunteers are required to wear masks
8. All students must wear masks when entering/exiting the building and in the stairwell. Children 10 and older must wear masks in class. Children younger than 10 are strongly encouraged to wear masks in class.

Q: What if we go back to Phase 2 or into another lock down?

A: We will follow the appropriate directives. If necessary, on-site classes will be suspended until it is safe to resume in person. Sacramental preparation classes that meet weekly will be given specific directions regarding their remote learning at the time of lock down, however, Confirmation Year 2 students will continue to meet weekly via Zoom. All other students will continue with the online curriculum.