



August 20, 2021

Dear Parents,

As the summer days are proceeding way too rapidly and our nation and world finds itself with ever deeper concerns about the pandemic, there is a notable increase in anxiety and uncertainty among us all. How will the new year unfold especially for the children in our schools? Clarity is evasive.

It's quite reasonable to wonder what we can do that will be truly helpful for the families and children in the parish during these uncertain times. I want to suggest that the greatest gift we can give the children is a deepening of their faith and their relationship with Christ and the church. Our faith is like an anchor which offers us what we most need when turbulence surrounds us. It draws us more deeply into the mystery of God's love, opens to us the mystery and the beauty of mercy and points a way towards a life of joy and gratitude.

Last year, our parish ran a fully remote Religious Education program. Grade level classes met monthly via Zoom and had packets of work to complete at home; and once a month we held Family Formation Zoom calls where families gathered together to listen to stories of our faith and complete an activity together. The feedback on the program was very positive! Many commented on how the Zoom calls were rewarding and started discussions in the home about the Catholic Faith, Jesus and God.

For the 2021-22 school year, we want to build upon the positive "new" realities of virtual meetings, while working to continue to strengthen our community with in-person events. We have planned a hybrid model. The program will begin in October 2021, with Grade Level classes happening monthly both in-person and virtually. In addition to the Grade Level classes, we will continue our monthly Faith Formation Zoom Calls, and we also set aside one Mass per month for Religious Education families to participate and gather together. As COVID restrictions may change over the next few months, please note that we are monitoring these events, and our schedule will reflect any necessary changes.

Please see the attached calendar for dates and times. On September 19, 2021 at 9:00am, we will have a Zoom Call to introduce the catechists, present an overview of the program and kick off the year. The Confirmation program will also kick off with a Zoom call on September 19 at 7:00pm. Please be on the lookout for Zoom information for those calls.

Finally, thank you for your support and participation. We truly hope our model will be a rich resource in deepening our Faith growing in our relationship with Jesus, never more needed than in our current world.

Sincerely in Christ's peace,

Father Jim Ronan
Pastor

Katy Fleming
Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation