

St. Mary of the Assumption/Church of St. Paul
Religious Education/Faith Formation
2021-2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Grandparents:

I would like to thank you for your participation in our family faith formation program last year and pray it gave guidance and inspiration to you as the primary educators of your children. We want to work hand in hand with you to bring our children along in their faith development which is essential to have a life of joy, peace, and a close relationship with our Triune God. Their connection to Jesus and their understanding of His great love for them is our prayer and mission.

This year is one of uncertainty as we move into yet another new space. The pandemic is not behind us yet and this impacts our ability to put a program in stone. We want an authentic experience of domestic church (home) and community church (parish life). To accommodate this, we will need parent/guardian/grandparent participation as a major component. I include grandparents in this greeting and throughout the letter as some have custody and others oversee the participation of their grandchild/children as an extension of their personal responsibility and faith. I am greatly appreciative of this as intergenerational family life is essential.

Enclosed you will find the registration form. The easiest way to return it is with the self-addressed, stamped envelope included with the mailing. It is essential that you circle the yes or no that is printed in red, so we'll know if picture taking is acceptable. If we do have to pivot and go to remote, further information will be provided at that time. Regular in-person sessions will begin on **Sunday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m.** with the families having a choice as to which Mass they attend, taking into consideration the current change in Mass schedule. Social distancing will be followed as well as masks being worn by everyone. Classes will be spaced out in the basement of St. Mary of the Assumption. Parents, please self-screen your children and all in your household before coming to class. Please do not participate if any symptoms are present or exposure at school has occurred.

We have not subscribed for a download version of our previous program. Individual books will be given to each student. Once again, Fr. Jon has graciously waived any cost to families so no registration fee will be collected for this year.

A schedule will be released once things are finalized. Be sure to go to our website, www.marypaul.org and click on the menu to access Religious Education information. Mass attendance in person is essential. Please plan on how this will best fit your family schedule.

Sacramental preparation is a two-year program for both Confirmation and First Reconciliation/First Penance. Specific information will be sent to those participants under separate cover.

As we make this combined effort to reconnect with our parish community and re-engage our attendance at Mass, my prayer is that our faith will be rekindled and the love and grace of receiving the Eucharist will pull us ever closer to Him and to each other.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or clarification concerning the reopening of our Religious Education classes. I'm excited to see our dear children face to face and reestablish our oneness in our faith.

Blessings and safe keeping,

Donna Di Stefano

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