



**Religious Education Program
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Dear Religious Ed Families,

Hopefully the stress of virtual learning is behind you at this point and you are able to rest and relax as the summer is beginning with some glorious weather...praise God!

Enclosed is the 2020-21 registration form for Religious Ed. You may complete it and send it back to me at the above address, or you may complete the online version located on our website, www.MaterChristiReligiousEd.com, and then submit it to me via email. Payment may be made by sending me a check or by taking advantage of our online system. The button for this is also on our website – home page.

I want you to know that I have thought long and hard on what Religious Ed will look like next year given the unpredictability of COVID-19. I do not think it would be productive to start and stop should the virus appear and disappear during the school year. In addition, we do not have enough volunteers to assist in following all of the health guidelines for school model sessions of age specific classes.

Although I do not have the details ironed out yet, I can tell you that we will be following a 'Family Catechesis' model. This means that the children and teens will have minimal age specific gatherings at church, and when we do hold 2-4 age specific sessions, they will focus on prayer and Christian service only.

The catechetical content will be presented to you as a family in two ways. First, and primarily, it will be through Family Educational Events. We have been offering these family educational sessions for the past 10+ years. Our theme for 2020-21 is, "The Mass". After coordinating with our school, I am hoping that we can expand the days that they are open to you so there are less folks attending at any given time. This seems to be a safer approach than how we have been doing it in the past, which is, offering it only one weekend. It will be necessary to schedule three to four of these Family Educational Events in order to cover the Mass thoroughly and to create them in a manner that is appealing to young children, older children, teens, and adults. If it is safe, Fr. Ebert will end the year with a "Walk Through the Mass" for all families, and then a picnic on the rectory field. The second way that we will offer catechetical information, activities, and lessons on the Mass will be online. Again, details will be given to you in early September.

For the 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion program, we will offer Reconciliation Learning Centers, a Church Scavenger Hunt, and online learning for parents and children preparing for the sacraments. The Family Educational Events described above will be of utmost importance for this group, as it is the primary topic for 1st Communion preparation. We will most likely hold 2 or 3 age-specific classes, as well.

It would be great if you would submit your registration forms by August 1st as there is a tremendous amount of work behind our Family Educational Events, and our team needs time to prepare for them. Part of that preparation depends upon number of attendees.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Blessings,

Bernadette McSparron, DRE