



# St. Therese Parish

The parish desires to provide in-person faith formation for the 2020-2021 school year. We appreciate the opportunity to help your children grow in a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church through the Parish Faith Formation Program. It is a great privilege to be able to assist you, the primary teachers of your children, in the ways of faith.

## **The following are essential Parents' Responsibilities and Parish Responsibilities regarding the Re-Opening of the Faith Formation Program in light of Covid-19**

### **1) Faith Formation**

- Our 2020-2021 formation schedule for children in grade school, middle school, and high school will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-7:45 PM.
- Students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade (Confirmation Candidates) will have a refresher class on Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM, as well as a rehearsal on Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, also at 6 PM.
- At this time, we are trying to keep visitors to our buildings at a minimum.
  - To help facilitate this goal, we are asking for parents to please only enter the building if they have important business that can't be done over the phone, via email, or web chat.
- Additionally, each week students should take home their textbook and folder and return it the following week so that we may continue Faith Formation in the event that schools are closed once more.

The Catechetical Leader and Support Team will work with the local county health department to insure that the re-opening of the Parish Program goes smoothly. We will be taking every reasonable precaution, with your help, to keep the catechetical environment safe and healthy. We have a plan, including the three aspects of Protective Measures, Hygiene and Cleaning, and Policy and Procedures for COVID-19 Exposure and Positive Tests that will be implemented effectively by parish staff, catechists, parents, and volunteers.

### **2) Protective Measures**

#### **Parents' Responsibilities:**

- Screen your children by taking their temperature and ask health related questions (do they feel well) before going to the Faith Formation Program.
- Speak with your children about the need to social distance.
- Keep a child, who does not feel well, at home. Symptoms of being ill include fever, stomach ailments, sore throat, a bad cough, difficulty breathing, headaches, etc.
- Provide a mask for your children as required by Gov. Evers directive. Unless a documented medical excuse from a medical professional is given, all adults and students

five-years old and above are required to wear masks in our buildings until further notice.

- Provide a filled water bottle for your student (if desired) as the drinking fountain will be unavailable.

### **Parish Responsibilities:**

- During Faith Formation, if a student appears to have an illness, the parish will help the student and proceed with a standard medical response such as taking the student's temperature. Sick students who have a temperature of over 100.4 degrees will be isolated from other students until a parent or guardian arrives to take them home.
- Remind catechists and adults who do not feel well to stay home.
- Provide face masks/coverings for the catechists.
- Provide adequate signage to remind anyone with fever or flu-like symptoms not to enter the building and to help encourage proper hygiene.
- It is important that social distancing be practiced by adults and should be encouraged among students. The current recommended standard for social distancing is 6 feet apart and 25% capacity of the space being used.
- Procedures are in place to limit the amount of students passing in a hallway through a plan for drop off and pick up.
  - Students in grades 1 & 2 should be dropped off inside the red doors near the gymnasium.
  - Students in grades 5 & 6 will be located in the church basement and may enter through the North-East or South-East side doors.
  - Students in grades 3, 7, and 10 will use the West school building doors.
  - Students in grades 4, 8, and 9 will use the East school building doors (main entrance).
- Additionally, all students will need to keep to the right side of the hallway to allow for adequate social distancing while moving up or down the halls.
- Students will not share books, materials, equipment, etc.
- The lay-out of classrooms and spacing of desks will be done in such a way as to keep in mind social distancing.
- There will be no sharing of food.
- Visitors to the Faith Formation Program will be limited to essential reasons only.
- The parish will make this document accessible to the parish community (via websites, social media outlets, etc.).
- This document will be reviewed regularly and updated as local ordinances are adjusted.

### **3) Hygiene & Cleaning**

#### **Parents are to review and practice the following with their children:**

- Washing hands often with soap and water for twenty or more seconds.
- Sanitizing hands when soap and water are unavailable.
- Keeping hands away from one's face - not touching one's face.
- When sneezing or coughing, to sneeze or cough into a tissue or an elbow.

### **Parish Responsibilities include:**

- All adults will wash their hands before entering the classroom / gathering area. Hands should be scrubbed with soap for twenty or more seconds.
- Hand sanitizers will be readily available. If a student, catechist, or aide leaves a classroom, he or she should sanitize his or her hands when re-entering the classroom.
- Catechetical leaders and catechists will try to limit physical contact with students. E.g. no handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, etc.
- After blowing their nose, students should discard the used tissue and wash or sanitize their hands. Adults will model this practice.

## **4) Policy & Procedures for COVID-19 Exposure & Positive Tests**

### **Parents' Responsibilities:**

- If any of your family is directly exposed to a person who is carrying COVID-19, your family should quarantine as recommended by your county health department.
- Report to the County Health Department if anyone in the family tests positive for COVID-19.
- If anyone in your family is diagnosed with COVID-19, you should receive documented permission from a medical professional to return to the Parish Program. E.g. a doctor, nurse practitioner, PA, etc.

### **Parish Responsibilities:**

- The Parish will cooperate with county or municipal health departments if a student or employee is diagnosed with a COVID-19 or another serious illness. Names will be kept confidential.
- To return to the Parish Program, an employee, catechist or volunteer who is diagnosed with COVID-19 should receive documented permission from a medical professional (doctor, nurse practitioner, PA, etc.).
- If a classroom(s)/gathering area is impacted by a student or adult diagnosed with COVID-19, the room should remain unused for three calendar days and be thoroughly cleaned before it can be used again.
- Parish staff will have the contact information for:
  - County health department
  - Local clinics and hospitals
  - Local schools
  - Diocesan offices

Saint Therese Religious Education Office  
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# St. Therese Parish

I have read the attached pages regarding the **Re-opening of the Faith Formation Program** in light of COVID-19 and I agree to uphold the parental responsibilities that are listed under:

- **Protective Measures  
Parents' Responsibilities**
  
- **Hygiene & Cleaning  
Parents' Responsibilities**
  
- **Policy & Procedures for COVID-19 Exposure & Positive Tests  
Parents' Responsibilities**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parents' Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parents' Printed name

For my children:

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