

Holy Family Catholic Church

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM YEAR 2020 -2021

REVISED: 8/20/20

INTRODUCTION

The Holy Family Catholic Church Religious Education Program Team developed this adapted plan to organize information and to describe the 2020-2021 program. This plan was designed to ensure and promote the safety of the students and their families as well as volunteers and staff, and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation classrooms. The ultimate goal of this Plan is to promote the safety of all members of the parish community and to assist families with understanding the importance of the plan. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health (DOH), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Diocese of Palm Beach Catholic Schools. Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by all the organizations mentioned above, as well as applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

COVERAGE

This Plan for program year 2020-2021 has been promulgated to assist with preventing the spread of COVID-19; however, COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and is extremely contagious. Holy Family Catholic Church and the Diocese of Palm Beach cannot guarantee that an employee, student, volunteer, contractor or other campus visitor will not become infected with COVID-19. This Plan, and any other related policies and procedures, may be revised at any time with or without prior notice and the specific provisions may be subject to the discretion of the Director of Religious Education and Pastor of Holy Family.

REVISIONS

As information unfolds regarding the status of COVID-19 and its implications on the Diocese of Palm Beach community, updates to this protocol and other current information will be posted internally through the Holy Family website, Religious Education webpage.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Safety: The Plan focuses on safety by mitigating and slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the context of a return to faith formation and sacramental preparation. Understanding that there is an inherent risk in returning from social distancing while in a pandemic, the Diocese of Palm Beach also understands that it is part of a societal decision that accepts balancing COVID-19 risk against the need for life to continue.
 - a. Hygiene: Within classrooms and throughout the school campus, there will be an emphasis on strong hygienic practices and increased sanitation measures.

b. Hybrid Model: Students will study at home for 3 weeks and come to class in the Parish Hall in the fourth week of the month, at the parents' discretion. If a student or their family member is in a higher-risk group, that student(s) should not attend the face-to-face meeting. Program attendance and progression to the next level in Program Year 2021-2022 depends solely on the submission of Unit Reviews with passing scores of 70% or higher.

2. Presence: Keeping classes open is a priority of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Catholic schools and our parish Religious Education Program believe that learning is best in community. By following the calendar given to families of finishing one chapter per week, we will be able to transition seamlessly into more face-to-face meetings per month as time passes.

3. Growth: Despite limitations, the goal is for children to continue to grow in their practice and knowledge of our shared Christian faith. Families are encouraged to enroll. Please follow the calendar and watch for phone calls, texts, and other communications for further details and deadlines.

EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT SAFETY

1. STUDENT ATTENDANCE

a. Children will begin the 2020-21 program year on September 1, 2020. An announcement will be made explaining how and when you will pick up your child(ren)'s course materials. All supplies needed for successful completion of activities will be given to you.

b. Parents will be able to choose whether or not their children attend any face-to-face meetings. There will be no penalties for non-attendance of classroom meetings this program year. All healthy students are encouraged to attend. If anyone in your family is showing signs of illness or allergy of any type, we kindly ask you to not bring your child to the program meeting that month. Daily temperature screenings will be required of all students at drop-off. The Self-Screening Checklist (linked to webpage) should be reviewed by parents on behalf of their child(ren). If someone in your family has a temperature over 100.3 F, any of the symptoms listed on the linked self-screen, please return home for your safety and the safety of others.

c. Volunteers and staff will follow the same guidelines.

d. Parents, children, volunteers, and staff will follow the direction of their personal physicians when ill.

2. DROP OFF AND PICK UP

a. Parents and other adults authorized for child drop-off and pick-up are required to wear face masks when on the property.

b. At drop-off, the caretaker will sign the Waiver of Liability (linked to webpage).

3. SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. Employees, students, parents, and visitors should follow the CDC guidelines on social distancing, minimizing or eliminating contact with others whenever possible. Holy Family Religious Education social distancing measures include temperature check upon entrance, one-way paths inside the Parish Hall, required masks, limited numbers of students in the classroom to maintain the 6-foot distance, tables aligned in rows and

columns with students facing in one direction, no sharing of supplies, use of hand sanitizer, no use of the water fountain, and use of the restrooms only when urgent. Catechists are strongly encouraged to hold part or all of a class outdoors, weather permitting. Children may bring jackets if they wish.

MASS, ASSEMBLIES, LARGE GATHERING ARRANGEMENTS

Holy Family's 5:30pm weekday Mass has been temporarily suspended.

Religious Education's annual Advent and Lent Retreats are temporarily suspended.

Religious Education Program Works of Mercy are temporarily suspended.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

All parents whose children are enrolled in the program are strongly urged to attend the once-a-month "Domestic Church" faith formation class. This class is taught at the same time that the children meet monthly. More details will follow. A strong prayer life is what makes life bearable during times of stress.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

On the 2020-2021 registration form, parents were able to choose from a number of ministries for their children to participate in. The program year will start without those active ministries. Parents will be advised when and if those ministries open this program year.

PARISH MINISTRIES

The pastor of a parish is ultimately responsible for all ministries of a parish, which includes the Religious Education Program. In our parish, classrooms and other spaces in the Parish Hall are shared with other ministries for meetings, classes, and so on. While this Plan is based on isolating groups of students within particular classrooms, Holy Family's Pastor may need to also open these same classrooms to other ministries. Should our pastor make this determination, proper sanitation and disinfection of the classrooms and common areas (hallways, bathrooms, etc.) should occur prior to and following the use of the facilities by other ministries.

COVID PROTOCOLS

1. GUIDANCE IF EXPOSED

While the hope is for all to avoid exposure to illness from COVID-19, there is a great need to be prepared for that possibility. If you test positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of the virus or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, the first concern is for your health and safety. In this rapidly changing situation, healthcare providers will have the most up-to-date information from the CDC. Follow all CDC and healthcare recommendations.

If you or your child has been in the Parish Hall, after contacting your physician, contact the Director of Religious Education (772-337-4313) to let her know that you have been exposed to COVID-19.

2. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, PPE is needed to prevent certain exposures. PPE includes the following:

Facial Covering: As we reenter the 2020-2021 program year, the Diocesan Catholic Schools and Holy Family Religious Education Program requires facial covering of students, volunteers, parents, and employees who attend the monthly face-to-face meetings in the Parish Hall. County and State ordinances will be followed. The Religious Education Office will continue to assess the need for this Personal Protective Equipment.

Gloves: Students, parents, staff, and volunteers do not need to wear gloves to attend the face-to-face monthly meeting. Please remember to wash your hands properly (with soap and water for at least 20 seconds) as it is the primary defense against any virus. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be in the classrooms as an alternative.

Please note that social distancing will still be practiced even with the use of gloves and masks.

3. GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES PROTOCOL

The Religious Education Program is also in the process of buying an air purifier for each classroom and a fogger to disinfect the classrooms, lobby, and other areas. Rooms will be regularly sanitized and disinfected with proper equipment including an acceptable, CDC approved, disinfectant.

Children attending in-person monthly meetings will not share supplies. Each child will have a 2-gallon ZIPLock bag containing a pencil and art supplies used only by that student during face-to-face meetings during the entire Program year.

TRAINING

The Religious Education Team attended several trainings this summer, including:

August 10, 2020, "COVID Training for Diocesan Employees" by Bruce Hill and Life Safety Solutions/Diocese of Palm Beach

August 5, 2020, "Coronavirus Update: Keeping Kids Safe" by Dr. Kelli Tice Wells and Florida Blue Better You

July 24, 2020, "Performing CPR During the COVID-19 Crisis" by Bruce Hill and Life Safety Solutions/Diocese of Palm Beach

July 21, 2020, "Novel Coronavirus: Where we are today" by Florida Blue Better You

Content Covered: 1. Signage in the buildings 2. Catholic School/Diocesan forms 3. Disinfection Measures 4. Transportation 5. Isolation protocols 6. On site health screening 7. Daily self-screenings 8. Visitors 9. Cleaning Crew Protocols 10. Communication Methods

COMMUNICATION METHODS

To stay updated on the most current information:

1. Read and respond to text messages sent by the Religious Education Team.
2. Volunteers should check their email often.

3. Visit the Holy Family website and the Religious Education page often.

<http://www.holyfamilyccpsl.com/home.html> and <http://www.holyfamilyccpsl.com/religious-education.html>

4. Visit the Diocesan website. <https://www.diocesepb.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.main>

5. Follow us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyCCPSLFL/>

REVIEW AND CONTINUITY OF THIS PLAN

The Pastor of Holy Family and its Director of Religious Education will re-evaluate and update this Program Plan and recalibrate as needed. The plan will be revised to minimize learning disruption and to maximize continued student learning.