

August 21, 2020

Welcome St. Ann Families!

Whether you are returning to the program or just beginning, congratulations on making the choice to pursue Catholic Faith Formation for your children! It is a great privilege for our catechists and volunteers to be entrusted with the task of assisting you in your child's spiritual journey. As our young people venture through the beauty and truth of our faith, we look forward to partnering with you to increase their desire for a relationship with our Lord within the Catholic life.

Be assured that our team will do all that we can to make this year the best experience for our children. While working to make Faith Formation classes inspiring, enriching, and prayerful we are also mindful of the necessity for added safety and health precautions in light of current circumstances. Our team of dedicated catechists and volunteers will closely adhere to guidelines implemented by the Diocese of Charlotte, Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools, and CDC recommendations for best practices. With that said, we will be looking to our St. Ann families for collaboration in these efforts in order to maintain strict and healthy standards.

What's new in Faith Formation?

Faith Formation Option 1: We are very excited to continue Face to face classroom instruction this year, but with these added precautions and modifications:

Before Arrival: Please have your child take care of bathroom needs prior to coming on campus in order to minimize use of school restrooms. If you have a thirsty child, please send along a filled water bottle from home to eliminate use of drinking fountains. Be prepared each week with a face mask, needed materials and supplies in student bags (catechists will provide information at first class meeting) **\*If your child is showing signs of illness: temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, muscle ache, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste and smell, please keep them at home for the safety of all.**

Drop-off: Plan to arrive for Faith Formation class no later than 9:00. Students may access the school through the Allen Center or upper parking lot doors. Temperature checks and CDC checklist will be completed at the Allen Center exit door (near gymnasium and bottom of stairs leading to school) or at the St. Ann School parking lot entrance door (for children arriving from parking lot). A parent or supervising adult with face covering should accompany children to the temperature check stations. Parents and visitors are asked to refrain from entering the school building in an effort to reduce contact and maintain proper distancing. Children who arrive after the start of class should come to the St. Ann School parking lot entrance door with a family member for admittance.

Classes: The number of students per classroom will be limited and organized to accommodate distance seating. Catechists and children will sanitize hands upon entering their assigned rooms and will wear appropriate face coverings; face shields or masks as needed. Teachers will instruct children in safety

and sanitation practices and will review as necessary at the beginning of each meeting. Students will be supplied storage bags to keep classroom materials separate and to prevent sharing. Desks and worktables will be wiped down at the beginning and end of class.

Dismissal: **(Tentative and incomplete – additional information to follow after 9/11; next phase)** We request that parents or designated adult wear a face covering when coming to pick up children. Dismissal times will be slightly staggered, with children in first and second grade departing at 10:10. Upper grades will follow.

Faith Formation Option 2: For parents less comfortable with face to face instruction we will make Faith and Life resources available so that lessons can be completed at home. In the case of home instruction, parents will be asked to supply student work to show that lessons have been completed.

Please note: Children are required to have at least two years of Faith Formation before receiving the Sacraments.

Thank you families for your support and patience as we work through the necessary adjustments to keep everyone safe while on the St. Ann Church and St. Ann School Campus. We will do our best to keep you informed and up to date on any changes.

An important reminder:

Such practices of weekly attendance at Mass (either online or being physically present), family prayer, and frequent reception of sacraments is an essential part of the religious education of your children while also demonstrating the wonder of our faith. Know that you are truly the greatest example when it comes to planting that seed of faith in your child. And, modeling the best Catholic life for our children will only serve to kindle the flame in their hearts. Thank you parents for the work you do and for working with us to build this strong, Catholic scaffold for your children.

Peace in Christ,

Patty Blais  
*Director of Faith Formation*  
*St. Ann Catholic Church*