

Church of St. Anthony

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August 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

“Do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will take care of itself.” -Matthew 6:34

Welcome to another year of faith formation for our youth. What a year 2020 has been! We pray that you are all healthy, safe, and content. We are ecstatic that we will, in one way or another, be able to offer you and your child education about their Catholic religion. It is an honor to continue with you all on your faith journey!

With the current pandemic, this year we are going to be taking things day by day and have great Faith in the Lord! Faith Formation classes will run a little differently to ensure the safest environment for both our students and volunteers. There is also protocol from the diocese that we must have in place and follow.

Enrollment: There are 2 options for enrollment: a traditional Wednesday night program and a Distant Learning Option.

-Traditional Wednesday Night Program: The traditional Wednesday night program will run throughout the school year. Due to social distancing requirements and safety concerns, we will alternate which grades will be in attendance on Wednesday nights. Grades 1-5 will alternate in-class instruction with grades 6-10. When the students are not present for class, they will be assigned something to complete at home during their ‘off’ weeks from in-class instruction. Wednesday night classes will run from 6:30 pm–7:45 pm. Please reference the included class schedule.

We will take lead from the EVW School district whether in person class will continue:

-EVW District Model 1, In Person Learning Plan: St. Anthony Faith Formation will have in person class as scheduled.

-EVW District Model 2, Hybrid Learning Plan: St. Anthony Faith Formation will have in person class as scheduled.

-EVW District Model 3, Distance Learning Plan: St. Anthony Faith Formation will have two weeks off and then the distance learning materials will be emailed/mailed out.

Grade 11, who is in their second year of Confirmation preparation, will meet on the following Wednesdays, 6:30pm-7:45pm rotating between parishes:

-St. Anthony in the Parish Hall: September 30th, October 14th, November 11th, and December 16th

-Assumption in the Parish Hall: January 20th, February 24th, March 10th, and April 7th

-Distant Learning Option: In consideration that your family is not comfortable at this time sending your child to class, we will be offering a Distant Learning Option. Based on the number of enrollments for the Distant Learning Option, we will then move forward with the decision on using the online platform we have offered in the past or use our in-class books/materials with scheduled Zoom meetings. It is *highly encouraged* for sacramental years (2nd grade, 10th grade, and 11th grade) to be in person, but we are understanding at this time if that is not an ideal situation for your family.

Registering: We realize and apologize that registrations are getting to you later than normal. Please return the registration forms and payments by mail, the Sunday collection or bring to the parish office. St. Anthony is open 8am-8pm daily. You are welcome to slide the registration under the office door if the office is closed. Registrations are due Monday, September 7th.

(over)

Cost: \$50 per student, maximum of \$150 per family. The cost is due with this form by September 7th. **No child will be refused because of financial reasons! Please reach out to the Faith Formation Office to request Sponsorship by fellow parishioner.**

Safety Protocol from Diocese of New Ulm:

-COVID-19/Sickness:

--Any child or adult that has tested positive for COVID-19 must stay home for the duration of their specified quarantine from their physician.

--Any child or adult that has come in close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 must stay home for the duration of their specified quarantine from their physician.

--Any child or adult that is showing symptoms related to COVID-19, must stay home until symptoms clear.

--If a student arrives to class showing obvious symptoms of sickness, they will be isolated and parents will be notified to come and pick up their child.

-Testing Positive for COVID-19: If a child or adult tests positive for COVID-19 after attending religious education class, they should notify Christy at the office as soon as possible.

-Masks: Executive Order 20-81 states that masks are required for adults and children ages 3 and up. We are asking each student and adult to wear a mask while in the building.

-Social Distance: We are running classes at 50% capacity from the beginning of the year to be extra safe. This will help us to be able to better distance the students and control the instruction space; which in turn will allow us to create a better and more safe learning environment for all involved in our religious education program.

--Students will be asked to go to their designated classroom upon arrival instead of spending time in the main hall or in other classrooms. Please don't drop off your child before 6:15 pm.

-Hand Sanitizer: Hand sanitizer will be provided to each classroom. The students and adults will be asked to use hand sanitizer when they arrive to class and before they leave class.

-Materials: Students will have the same book and materials at each class to avoid spreading any germs to other students.

-Cleaning: Cleaning/Sanitizing will be done after each Wednesday night class session.

-Send home sheets/reminders: Things sent home from church office will be kept to a minimum this year due to multiple handlings of paper. Please provide your best email address and phone number so we can use email and the remind app to keep in contact with you about upcoming events, reminders, and, if needed, closures.

Faith Formation Communications:

-Remind APP: After registrations are finalized, you will be contacted to be apart of the remind App with signature EVWFaithFormation. You have our promise that you won't be overloaded with a bunch of text messages. This is the most efficient way to get ahold of you regarding Wednesday night classes, any pickup information, or important reminders.

-E-mail: Email will continue to be the main source of communication. Please be sure to include your best email on your registration form. You will be emailed about any changes to the schedule and about upcoming events. An updated class schedule will also be posted on the parish website.

Volunteers: We have the need of more volunteers. Please prayerfully consider being part of our Faith Formation program! Safe Environment Training will be assigned per diocesan guidelines.

Pictures: Pictures may be posted on our parish website or our Facebook page throughout the year – please notify the office in writing if you prefer that your child NOT be included in such photos.

You are welcome to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to assist as you need. Please remember the teachers, aides, and students in your prayers throughout this year and know that your families will continue to be in ours!

Christy Louwagie and Bonnie Meyer
Director and Assistant of Religious Education
St. Anthony's and Assumption Church