

Dear Families,

As the 2020-2021 school year begins, our communities face obvious and unexpected challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many areas of our lives are still uncertain, and we realize our best plans are always subject to change. Through it all, we rely on God more than ever to see us through these unprecedented times.

Here at St. John the Baptist Church we have been preparing all summer so we are able to meet challenges and work together during this time. We are doing everything possible to make it safe for students and catechists to return joyfully to our Faith Formation program. We have adopted a hybrid model this year, allowing for social distancing, and most importantly, ***decreasing the density in the building and on the premises***. Students may attend either Week A or Week B, with scheduling online at [www.sjbwr.org](http://www.sjbwr.org) for your convenience. Some virtual platforms/Google Classrooms are forming for grade levels, and of course, there is the Home Study option. Based on feasibility, our setting, and student/catechist needs, please review the follow protocol/guidelines for in-person attendance:

### **Face Coverings**

Catechists, volunteers, and staff will wear face coverings that cover their nose and mouth.

Students in Grades 1-8 are required to wear face coverings entering the building and in the classroom.

One mask break for the duration of 5 minutes will be scheduled as often as possible, in the *classroom area only while maintaining social distancing protocol*. It is not required to take a mask break should anyone prefer to remain with their masks on.

### **Physical Distancing**

Seating will be spaced six feet apart wherever feasible.

Catechists will maintain a six feet distance unless the safety or effectiveness of the activity requires a shorter distance; masks will remain on at all times.

Interactions between groups of students from other classrooms will not take place.

Masks must be worn in hallways and in common spaces.

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

Temperature checks will be conducted on students prior to entering the classroom hallway. Any student registering a fever of 100 degrees F. or higher will not be permitted entry into the hallway.

The following procedures to stagger drop off/pickup times or manage the flow of students through different doorways will be established in the following ways:

### **Sunday Classes**

**Grades 7 & 8 students** will enter the door at the far end of the hall, by the Faith Formation office (stairway outside at the beginning of parking lot). Please begin arrival by 8:50 am (session # 1) or 11:20 am (session # 2). No entry will be permitted after 9:15 am for the first session or 11:45 am for the second session.

**Grades 1-6 students** will enter through the main doors. Parents please *park your cars and escort your child(ren) to the main doors*. Children only will enter the building and be escorted to their class(es). Grades 1 & 2 please arrive by 8:50 am-session 1 *or* 11:20 am -session 2; Grades 3 & 4 arrive by 8:55 am-session 1 *or* 11:25 am-session 2, and Grades 5 & 6 arrive by 9:00 am-session 1 *or* 11:30 am session 2. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping all safe on the premises.

**Grades 7 & 8 students** will be dismissed the same door they entered at 9:55 am-session 1 *or* 12:25 pm -session 2. **Grades 1-6 students will be escorted to the main door area, under the awning, in the following manner:** Grades 1 & 2- dismissal at 9:50 am-session 1 *or* 12:20 pm-session 2; Grade 3 & 4- dismissal at 9:55 am-session 1 *or* 12:25 session 2; Grades 5 & 6- dismissal at 10:00 am-session 1 *or* 12:30 pm -session 2.

### **Monday & Wednesday afternoon classes- Grades 1-5**

Same arrival procedures for Sunday classes, with the following timing:

Grade 1 arrival -4:20 pm; dismissal 5:15 pm

Grades 2 & 3 arrival – 4:25 pm; dismissal 5:20 pm

Grades 4 & 5 arrival- 4:30 pm; dismissal 5:25 pm

### **Tuesday afternoon classes- Grade 1**

Arrival at 4:30 pm and dismissal at 5:25 pm.

### **Monday and Tuesday evenings-Grades 6-8**

Drop off/dismissal at main door, with respect to the following timing:

Grades 6 & 7 arrival at 6:50 pm- dismissal at 8:00 pm

Grade 8 arrival 6:55 pm - dismissal at 8:05 pm

### **Cleaning and sanitizing procedures**

Sanitizing stations in common areas and in the classrooms will be provided.

Use of cleaning machine(s) to spray used areas with appropriate, approved solution will occur as often as possible.

Common areas will be wiped down frequently.

### **Bathrooms**

Bathroom use will be limited to our students only during class times; *one* student may use the restroom at one time. We encourage bathroom use at home before arriving for class, so we may optimally adhere to our safest protocol. Adult volunteers/catechists have their own designated bathroom.

### **Sick Students**

Should a student feel ill during class time, they will be brought to a supervised isolation area that is separate from the classroom area. A parent will be called to pick up the child. If your child is feeling ill prior to class, please keep them home.

### **Sudden closure**

If a classroom or our entire program needs to close, students will follow the online schedule for their week (A or B). Virtual/Google Classroom set ups will enhance support from St. John the Baptist and our dedicated catechists.

We thank you for entrusting us with your children. We are all blessed to be on this journey together. As communication on all fronts is critical in these uncertain times, please ensure we have your correct email addresses and cell phone numbers, and please bookmark this email address: [reled@sjbwr.org](mailto:reled@sjbwr.org). Sometimes our correspondence ends up in junk mail folders; we just want you to be aware. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we navigate these new times together. May God bless the parish family of St. John the Baptist Church.