

Dear Families,

As the 2021-2022 school year begins, our communities are still faced with obvious and unexpected challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many areas of our lives remain 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 most challenging 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 returned to our weekly in-person class model this year, still allowing for social distancing, and most importantly, remaining within the recommended guidelines for safe numbers with regard to density in the building and on the premises. Our Home Study option is available to families who need flexibility for various reasons. Sacramental families (students in Grades 1, 2, 7 or 8) are asked to speak with Jane Oliva prior to considering this option. Our 2021-2022 calendar can be referred to online at www.sjbwr.org. 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 three feet apart wherever feasible. Catechists will maintain a three feet distance unless the safety or effectiveness of the activity requires a longer/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

We follow state and local guidelines, primarily the local protocol of the Shoreham-Wading River School District. Any student not feeling well prior to class is asked to remain at home. The following procedures to stagger drop off/pickup times or manage the flow of students through our entryway will be established in the following ways:

Sunday Classes

All students, Grs 1-8 will enter through the main entrance in the parking lot.

Entry into the building will begin at 8:55 am (session # 1) or 11:25 am (session # 2). No entry will be permitted after 9:15 am for the first session or 11:45 am for the second session.

Parents please park your cars and walk students in Grade 1-6 to the entry door. Grades 7 & 8 students may walk in unattended to the entryway door (parents please park your cars). We thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping all safe on the premises. For dismissal, Grades 1-6 students will be escorted to the main door area, under the awning, in the following manner: **Grades 1-3:**dismissal at 9:50 am-session 1 or 12:20 pm-session 2; **Grade 4-6:** dismissal at 9:55 am-session 1 or 12:25 session 2; **Grades 7 & 8:**dimissal at 10:00 am-session 1 or 12:30 pm -session 2.

Monday & Wednesday afternoon classes- Grades 1-5 (6)

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

Grades 1, 2, 3 arrival - 4:25 pm; dismissal 5:15 pm

Grades 4, 5, 6 (Wednesdays) –arrival -4:30 pm; dismissal 5:20 pm

Thursday afternoon classes- Grades 1 & 2

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

Monday and Tuesday evenings - Grades 6-8/7-8

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

Grades 6 & 7 arrival at 6:55 pm- dismissal at 8:00 pm

Grade 8 arrival 7:00 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

Again, all students not feeling well should remain at home. 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 instructions given for their class scheduling. 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*. 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 continue to navigate these times together.

May God bless the parish family of St. John the Baptist Church.