



## **St. Martha Catholic Church Religious Education**

### **Proposed In-Person Learning Plan**

#### **St. Martha Religious Education Mission Statement**

The Saint Martha Religious Education/ Faith Formation Program lays the foundation for children to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Children are the focal point of its educational process and instructional programs.

The curriculum is designed to be relevant, effective, and appropriate for the child's needs and should enable the student to meet the demands of the world in which he/she lives. Students will study Catholic teaching and will share their faith through scripture, prayer, and experiences.

The Saint Martha Religious Education/ Faith Formation Program is an extension of the teaching mission of the Church and exists for that purpose. We will provide a safe environment in which the children of our parish can learn about our Catholic beliefs and traditions. As partners in the teaching process, the Faith Formation Program is committed to our parents/guardians who are the primary religious educators of their children.

We encourage all children and their families to become actively engaged in our Religious Education/Faith Formation Program, to grow in faith, love and relationship with God, his Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

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Dear Families,

As we continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on our community, we understand that our parish families, employees and community have many questions and opinions about the start of the 2020-2021 Religious Education/Faith Formation year. It is our prayer that this document and future revisions will continue to clarify the steps being taken to have our catechists and students return to Religious Education. It is our sincere hope and prayer that these measures are temporary in nature and that as restrictions ease across the state, St. Martha Church can also ease restrictions and requirements.

In order for this plan to work and for a future return to normalcy, it is essential that all of our families comply fully with the requirements for returning to Religious Education. We as a faith formation program carry a serious burden to do everything we can to bring students back, while protecting them and their families to the fullest extent we are able.

This document reflects those needs. The ultimate goal of this plan is to promote the safety of all members of our parish community and to assist the community 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), and World Health Organization (WHO). The Diocese of Venice continues to look at best practices in education while listening to the recommendations being made by the Department of Education (DOE), the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), and the Florida Catholic Conference School Executive Committee (FCCSEC) and Accreditation Committee (FCCA).

Please review our Religious Education/Faith Formation plan. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Religious Education office. We will continue to send you updates. We are grateful for your patience and support during these unprecedented times. We trust that God will continue to pour out his blessings on our entire community.

Blessings in Faith,

Patricia Sileo  
Director of Religious Education

## **IN PERSON LEARNING MODEL**

### **LEARNING OPTIONS FOR 2020-2021**

There are two options for Religious Education/Faith Formation instruction available to our parish families (Parents/Guardians to pick one of the options by September 4th)

1. For those families who are comfortable returning to the religious education/faith formation classrooms, students can join their catechists and peers in their classrooms.
2. Other families may choose to participate via virtual learning at home (See St. Martha Church Synchronous & Asynchronous Learning Plan)

## **SAFETY OF CATECHISTS, STUDENTS & STAFF**

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. Catechists, staff, students and parents or guardians should maintain the CDC recommended distance from others and eliminating contact with others whenever possible. All persons on church property are to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing protocols. The St. Martha Religious Education/Faith Formation program will strive to maintain social distancing in classrooms and throughout campus, but staff, Catechists, students, and visitors must play an active role in achieving the recommended distancing.

### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Face Covering: Face coverings (mask or gaiter) are required to be worn by all persons (students, catechists, staff) on church property over the age of 2 years old. Face coverings are an important part of employee and student protection, as well as personal hygiene, social distancing, and frequent cleaning efforts. A face covering should always safely cover the mouth and nose while on church property. All staff, catechists and students will receive training on proper mask-wearing.

Individuals who have a specific medical condition may consult with the Director of Religious Education for further guidance.

### **HYGIENE**

Staff/Catechists will teach and reinforce proper hand washing and sanitizing procedures, how to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. They will provide frequent opportunities for handwashing with soap and water by students. Hand Sanitizer Stations will be installed and easily accessible. Supplies will be provided to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).

Staff will systematically and frequently check and refill soap and hand sanitizers stations.

Staff/Catechists will limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils. All supplies will be provided by the Religious Education Program and will be placed in individual containers clearly marked for each student. Access to water fountains will be removed.

## SCREENING AND PROTOCOLS

### COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure, St. Martha Church will require catechists, employees and students to complete a screening in order to enter religious education classrooms which includes temperature reading and a set of questions related to COVID-19 symptoms as determined by the CDC. Generally, these may include the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- ❖ Cough
- ❖ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ❖ Chills
- ❖ Repeated shaking with chills
- ❖ Muscle pain
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Sore throat
- ❖ Loss of taste or smell
- ❖ Diarrhea
- ❖ Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- ❖ Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19 All screening information will be kept confidential by the school

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, as listed above, will not be permitted to enter.

### ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

**All students, catechists, and staff must wear face coverings upon arrival.**

"Wellness Checks" of all students, catechists, and staff will be performed at the East Door entrance/stairway to classrooms (2nd Street) as they arrive. Wellness Checks consist of four individual "checks":

1. Temperature Checks: A temperature check of each student, catechist and employee must occur. Any student, catechist, staff member with a temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will be sent home.
2. Hand Washing or Sanitizer Check: Students, catechists, and staff should either wash hands or receive hand sanitizer (from an adult or a stationary dispenser).
3. Face Covering Check: A check of each student, catechist, and staff member to ensure that masks are present and properly worn.
4. Symptom Check: Students, catechists, and staff will be asked the following questions before going to classrooms: "Do you feel sick in any way? Do you have a cough or fever? Have you been in contact with a person who is COVID positive?" Any student, catechist, and staff who answers 'yes' to either question will be sent home.

### DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Students will be dismissed in a "car line like dismissal" on 2nd Street. There will be staggered dismissal times to prevent traffic delays. Catechists and staff will bring students to 2nd street to be picked up by designated parent or guardian.

## **HEALTH PROTOCOL FOR STUDENTS**

If a student becomes ill during religious education classes or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, he or she will be taken to Religious Education Office and parents will be called and asked to come get them.

If a student has symptoms of COVID-19, he/she may return to campus if he/she meets one of the following criteria:

1. A negative COVID-19 test result and a doctor's note to return.
2. At least 14 calendar days have passed since symptoms first occurred, or they were in close contact with a suspected infected person.
3. If a student, catechist, or staff member tested positive, they cannot return until he/she has tested negative for COVID-19 within the 14 days of quarantine.

Parents/Guardians will be notified of any staff, student, or Catechist that tests positive for Covid-19.

## **FACILITY SAFETY**

### **SPACING, MOVEMENT, AND ACCESS**

Students will be spaced as far apart as feasible in classrooms. Extra furniture will be removed to allow additional space. Posted signage will indicate proper social distancing and maximum occupancy of rooms. Restricted entrance to the Religious Education Classrooms to students, catechists and staff only, with the following allowances: Family members or other non-staff adults are not allowed in the religious education classrooms except under extenuating circumstances determined by the Administration.

### **FACILITIES CLEANING**

The safety of our employees, catechists and students is our first priority. Upon reopening, our Religious Education classrooms will have been completely cleaned and disinfected, and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions.

In addition to the deep cleaning of the Religious Education classrooms before employees, catechists and students return, the cleaning steps outlined below will be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect staff, catechists and students and reduce the risk of spread of infection. We will require staff to maintain this safety standard by continuously cleaning and disinfecting based on the frequency stated below.

### **GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES**

Frequently touched surfaces including light switches, door handles, stair rails, benches, bathrooms, will undergo cleaning after each class with an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.

Student desks will be wiped down with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution after every class. The Church will ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff uses products. Staff must wear gloves, surgical masks, and face shields when performing cleaning activities.

### **RESTROOM USAGE DURING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The Church has established protocols for the restrooms that allow for social distancing and will review them with all students and Catechists. Restroom capacity will be determined by the number of sinks in each restroom. Designated Catechist bathroom is located in Room 216 of the second floor (Service Club Room)

### **FOOD/SNACKS**

Distribution of Snacks/Drinks will be suspended until further notice