

Holy Rosary Faith Formation COVID Preparedness Plan

Let us never set conditions for God; let us instead allow hope to conquer our fears. ~Pope Francis

A note to parents: We are excited to begin in-person Faith Formation classes this 2020-21 school year! You are your child's first and most important educator in the faith and we thank you for the privilege of assisting in your vocation as Christian parents. Holy Rosary Faith Formation is implementing the following COVID Preparedness Plan to make sure that every child and catechist is safe while attending weekly in-person Faith Formation classes. If at any time during the school year you have concerns that our Faith Formation environment is not safe for your child, please call or email us so we can address your issues. We are always open to feedback you may have to make this Preparedness Plan better – don't hesitate to share your input with us! God bless you and your family this year!

Illness / COVID Symptoms

Students should remain at home if they have been sick from school the day of Faith Formation, even if they feel better by the evening or are symptomatic of illness after coming home from school. Symptoms include: respiratory discomfort, fever, chills, new body aches, vomiting, diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell. We recognize that many students might suffer from allergies during certain points of the year. If this is the case with your child, please indicate this on your child's Faith Formation Registration form in the "Allergies/Special Needs" column.

Drop Off / Parking at Holy Rosary

Parents are asked to drop their children off in front of the Welcoming Center doors if they do not need to come into the building with their child. Please enter and exit the south parking lot from the Lake Avenue entrance and watch for children and youth walking through the parking lot as you drive through the loop.

Parents (or older sibling) of Kindergarten and 1st graders need to escort their child to and from class. Parents and high school student drivers are asked to park in the south parking lot and enter through the Welcoming Center doors.

Arrival

The Welcoming Center doors will be the only entrance/exit used on Wednesday evenings for Faith Formation classes. Doors will be appropriately marked: one side will be used as an entrance, the other as an exit. **Students must enter through door #1 and must exit through door #2.**

Directional signs and floor markings will be placed in hallways, restrooms, and any other appropriate places of the school and church spaces to remind students and catechists to keep 6 feet apart.

When entering the Welcoming Center students (age 5 and older) and adults must wear a face covering and sanitize their hands before going to their classroom. Temperature checks will not be given. Students and adults will not congregate in the Welcoming Center before the start of class.

(Wed. 6:00-7:15PM): Grade K-8 parents are asked to drop off their child at the Welcoming Center doors between 5:45 - 6:00PM. **These doors will be locked until 5:45PM.** We discourage parents from coming into the building with their child. Only parents or an older sibling of Kindergarten and 1st grade children should enter the building to escort their child to their classroom. Students will sanitize their hands and go directly to their classroom. Students are required to wear a mask in class.

(Wed. 7:30-9:00PM): Grade 9-11 students should enter the Welcoming Center doors NO EARLIER than 7:25PM. Students will sanitize their hands and go directly to their classroom. Students are required to wear a mask in class.

Classrooms

(Wed. 6:00-7:15PM): Kindergarten will meet in the Parish Living Room (off the Welcoming Center), Grades 1-6 will meet in the school in their corresponding Holy Rosary School classroom and grades 7 & 8 will meet in the St. Benedict/ Scholastica rooms. **Kindergarten and Grade 1 students must be escorted to class by a parent or older sibling.** Grade 1 students will proceed to their classroom located on the 1st level of the school through the south hallway. Grades 2 – 5 will proceed to their classrooms located on the 2nd level of the school through the south hallway and south stairwell. Grade 6 will proceed to their classroom located on the 3rd level of the school using the hallway that runs along the library, down the steps and entering the school from the bottom level of the school, using the north stairwell. Grades 7 and 8 will proceed to the St. Bens/Scholastica rooms through the hallway that runs along the library and down the steps.

(Wed. 7:30-9:00PM): Grade 9-11 students will meet in the Parish Living Room, Youth Rooms, St. Ben's, St. Scholastica and on the 3rd level of the school.

Classroom Instruction Time

Upon arrival to their classroom, students will be assigned a desk or spot at a table that will be an appropriate distance away from other students. Students should follow their catechist's instructions as class begins and attendance is taken. If neither the catechist, Kathy or Bobbi are notified of a student's absence, a call will be made to the parents the following day by Kathy or Bobbi to make sure they are aware of their child's absence.

Each student will receive their own textbook or workbook that will be kept at the church. Grades K-2 will receive their own baggie or supply box of craft and coloring materials that will be kept in their catechist's basket. Each 3rd – 11th grade class will have their own writing supplies that will be kept in their catechist's basket. Writing supplies that are used by students in the classroom will not be shared during class time.

Closing Prayer in the Church and Dismissal

Grades K-8 will end Faith Formation each week in the church from 7-7:15PM with Closing Prayer. Each grade will take a turn reading during Closing Prayer which will be led by Fr. Chuck. Catechists and students will leave their classrooms using the same route as they used when they came for class. As students and catechists enter the church for prayer, they will sanitize their hands and sit with their class in their designated pews and at an appropriate distance from each other. Parents are strongly encouraged to join us for Closing Prayer and may sit or stand in the areas of the church that are not being occupied by students.

At the end of Closing Prayer, **students who have parents present in the church will be dismissed first** followed by the rest of the students who will be dismissed by family. Parents who are not present for Closing Prayer are asked to pick up their child using the pick-up loop at the Welcoming Center doors. Students will only be allowed to exit the church from the Welcoming Center. **No other doors in the church or the school will be used to exit the building.**

Grades 9, 10 & 11 will end Faith Formation each week in the church from 8:40-9:00PM with Closing Prayer in the church. As students and catechists enter the church for prayer, they will sanitize their hands and sit with their class in their designated pews and at an appropriate distance from each other. Parents are strongly encouraged to join us for Closing Prayer and may sit or stand in the areas of the church that are not being occupied by students. Students will be dismissed by grade at the end of Closing Prayer and will only be allowed to exit the church from the Welcoming Center doors. **No other doors in the church or the school will be used to exit the building.**

Drinking Fountains

The head and mouthpiece of every fountain in the school and church areas have been disabled and have been replaced by water bottle filling fountains. Students are asked to bring their own filled water bottle to Faith Formation class if they need to. Water fountains will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Hygiene / Respiratory Etiquette

Signage will be posted in restrooms for appropriate handwashing etiquette. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom, the Welcoming Center and in the entrances of the church. Parents may send hand sanitizer with their child to Faith Formation class for their child's personal use. Signage will be posted in classrooms and hallways for appropriate respiratory etiquette. Catechists and students will be encouraged to use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash immediately, and hands should be cleansed with hand sanitizer or washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Sanitation

Prior to and following Wednesday evening Faith Formation, classrooms, hallways, stairwells, bathrooms and the church will be properly cleaned and sanitized by Holy Rosary staff and volunteers.

Reporting COVID Cases

Parents should self-report to Directors of Faith Formation, Kathy Olson or Bobbi Mercil if their student has symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or had close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days. A close contact is defined by the Minnesota Department of Health as anyone who was within 6 feet of the person who is sick while they were considered to be infectious, for 15 minutes or more (regardless of whether either person wore a cloth face covering or face shield). If an individual in the church and school buildings contracts COVID-19, families will be contacted immediately by phone call and email.

Virtual Faith Formation Under Quarantine

If Holy Rosary School and/or the Detroit Lakes Public schools are directed to close by local or state agencies, Holy Rosary Faith Formation will discontinue in-person onsite classes and move to Virtual Faith Formation using Zoom. Kathy and Bobbi will communicate to parents via email a Faith Formation Zoom class meeting schedule and Virtual Learning instructions prior to the start of class Zoom meetings. Virtual Faith Formation instructions will also be given to parents the first or second week of in-person onsite classes.

Communication

Our primary means of communication with parents will be through email and the **myParish App**. Parents are asked to check their email every Wednesday and download the **myParish App** onto their smart phone to stay informed with Holy Rosary Faith Formation classes.

1. Download **myParish App** from the App Store on your smart phone
2. Select Holy Rosary, Detroit Lakes

Please call or email us at the parish office should you have any questions or concerns about Faith Formation or our COVID Preparedness Plan. Let us pray for an end to COVID, for each other and for all Holy Rosary families this year.

Peace in Christ,

Bobbi Mercil
Director of Faith Formation
Middle School, High School, Adult
bmercil@holynosarycc.org
847-1393; Ext. 118

Kathy Olson
Director of Faith Formation
Baptism, Preschool – 6th Grade
kaolson@holynosarycc.org
847-1393; Ext. 109