

June 30, 2021

Dear Parents,

Tomorrow I am archiving this past year's Google Classrooms in order to prepare them for use both by catechists onsite next year via Chromebooks at the tables, and by those students who choose to continue home study next year. Therefore, today is the last day to access this year's Google Classrooms.

Next Year Plans

Capacity and mask restrictions have been fully lifted in the church. This means we can open our onsite program next year without complication. If you registered your child for online classes next year and we have enough teacher volunteers by late August, you will receive a letter with your child's teacher and important dates by the beginning of September. Classes begin in October. If you registered your child for home study next year, you will receive a Google Classroom code for that student. The format for home study will continue in the same way as last year via Google Classroom. The schedule for all onsite classes can be accessed here:

<https://ourladyofthesnowbluepoint.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2021/05/2021-22Class-Dates.pdf>

We Really Need Volunteer Teachers

So many of you have stepped forward to help next year onsite, because you really want to bring back the community experience of religious education for your children, and so do !!

Levels are being grouped together this year. Catechists will have Chromebooks to access the digital lessons and written lesson plans with a hands-on activity to use at the tables. Students will focus on learning to navigate a Student Bible that they will bring to every level, rather than a workbook. This is quite a change, but it is also exciting to try a new direction to engage students. We still need more catechists, especially in Level 4. Level 6 is the only level that as of today has enough catechists to handle the rest of registration.

If you are able to teach a table of students, please fill out this volunteer form:

<https://form.jotform.com/211237765873059>

Registration Update

Almost 3/4 of our Faith Formation parish families have re-registered. This is a tremendous help to me in planning classes and securing enough catechists for onsite classes. If you have not yet registered, you can do so at this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/211163527506147>

Remind App

Moving forward, my primary means of communication will be through the Remind App. I will be sending out very few mailings, which is a change from past years. If you have already joined the Remind classes for your children last year, I automatically moved you up a level and there is nothing you need to do. If you didn't join Remind yet, please do so. Children under 13 years old cannot join Remind. The App won't allow it. If you need help signing up with your phone via text, please contact me. Below is a link to the access codes for all the levels of classes on the Remind App.

<https://ourladyofthesnowbluepoint.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2021/05/Remind-Codes-2021-22-yr.pdf>

Student Bibles

The student Bibles distributed last fall to students in grades 1-6 and catechists will be needed for class work both online or onsite. Students will use the same Bible throughout all their years of religious formation. Students who have chosen onsite classes next year and have not yet picked up their Bibles will get them on the first day of class. Students who remain in home study who have not yet picked up their student Bibles will have to make an appointment with me to pick them up in September. Level 1 students will receive their Bibles and Mass/Reconciliation book at the first class. Levels 7-9, who received a Break Through Bible in Level 6 are to use that Bible for lessons, and bring it with them to onsite classes.

Faith Formation Buddy Ministry

So many of you have asked me if there are any opportunities through Faith Formation for community service hours. I know students need to gather hours for NHS, NJHS, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. In response I'm organizing a group of middle schoolers and high schoolers who can either assist an adult catechist or teach a small group, depending on their ages and whether they have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. I am so excited about this ministry because it is a way to keep students involved in parish life and it will help them grow their own faith. If your child is interested in joining this ministry please fill out this form:

<https://form.jotform.com/211714411069044>

Have a safe and wonderful summer as we can finally celebrate with family and friends again. Please pray that the OLS Faith Formation program will continue to draw families closer to Christ as we reopen in the fall.

Sincerely,

Loren Christie, Faith Formation Director
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