

Saint Clare of Assisi Parish, St. Clair, PA

Covid-19 Pandemic Action Response Plan

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) 2020-2021

1 THE IMPORTANCE OF PREP & PROTECTIVE ACTIONS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

In the Instruction for the Baptism of Children, parents are reminded that they are the first teachers of the Catholic Faith to their children. In other words, the practice of the Faith by children is in imitation of their parents. The saying of prayers, attendance at Mass, and the reception of the Sacraments is a minimal requirement at the family level. The goal of the Parish Family is to provide these children with a solid religious education in areas where parents might feel limited. At the same time, the Parish must do its very best to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for our youngest parishioners to create that love for Church.

The uncertainty of a resurgence of the Coronavirus requires us to create a response plan that is two-fold: 1) to ensure our children receive religious instruction in a timely fashion, and 2) the health and well-being of the children and their family members is maintained as best as possible.

Msgr. Glosser, Dottie Frie, and our PREP faculty will be conducting Parent Information Sessions as well as information on our PREP Webpage to explain the instructional format for this coming school year. Registration will also take place at this time. A parent **MUST** attend one informational meeting which will be offered:

- Wednesday, August 26, in the main church 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM — OR
- Wednesday, September 2, in the main church 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

PREP BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020.

N.B. A child must attend two **FULL** years of PREP to be eligible to receive Sacraments. For instance, a full year of both First and Second Grade to receive First Penance and Holy Communion, and a full year of both Seventh and Eighth Grade to be confirmed. The parents of each Eighth Grade PREP student will be required to assist our catechists with one week's instruction.

However, **for the 2020-2021 school year only**, any family may wish to opt out of in-classroom session altogether and use the virtual program for the school year. They need to notify Dottie Frie or the rectory as other home schooling by the parents will be required.

2 PREP FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER 2020

For the first semester for Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7, students will complete an online class with parental follow-up. In the event a family is without access to a computer or the internet, a textbook will be issued with corresponding assignments to be completed with parental follow-up and a 4-week face to face check-in with the proper catechist.

For Grades 2 and 8, due to the importance of those preparing to receive Sacraments this year (Penance, Holy Communion, and Confirmation), these children will attend class on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in St. Clare of Assisi Church. **There will be NO Classes held at Nativity BVM High School for the First Semester.**

Our Kindergarten program provides a ‘jump start’ on instilling Catholic Faith at this age level through simple prayers, faith-filled gestures, Bible stories, and religiously oriented art projects. This class will be offered on Wednesday evenings in conjunction with our Sacramental PREP programs.

3 PREP FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER 2021

Should the Coronavirus be halted during the First Semester, classes will resume, as in the past, at Nativity BVM High School on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. If not, we will follow the first semester format.

4 ENTRANCE PROCEDURES FOR SECOND GRADE & EIGHTH GRADE AND IF PREP RETURNS TO CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION FOR THE SECOND SEMESTER

To ensure the safety and well-being of the children, new entrance procedures are necessary.

1. Prior to entrance into Wednesday evening class, the temperature of each child will be checked using the forehead scan thermometer. In addition, questions concerning the possible exposure to COVID-19 will be asked as well.
2. **It's important that the parent/guardian of the child remain at the building until the child passes the temperature and question check.**
3. Once in the building, the child will be seated with the appropriate social distance guidelines in place.
4. Masks must be worn upon entering the building and remain in place until after dismissal.

5 CLASSROOM PRACTICES

Hand sanitizers will be provided in each classroom.

The goal is to place each child six feet apart. Desks and chairs not being used will be removed from the classroom to allow for more spacing.

For classes with large number of students, there will be two options.

1. Split the class up into two classes, or
2. Meet with half the class one week and the other half the following week

If six feet apart can be achieved, masks can be removed in the classroom only. (If they have to use the restroom or go to the office, the mask must be put back on).

If six feet apart cannot be achieved, masks must be worn.

6 DEPARTURE

Classes will remain in their classroom at the end of the P.R.E.P.

Classes will be called individually to ensure proper social distancing.

7 VIRTUAL LEARNING

Virtual learning for Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7 will be provided for families utilizing Ignatius Press *Faith and Life Series* which will provide full on-line instruction or the first semester and if need be into the second semester.

Parents/guardians will be responsible for the instruction and ensuring the work is completed.

Completed assignments will be emailed to our catechist and they will be verified to see that the work is completed.

If a child does not complete all the required material, then they will not move on to the next grade.

8 PROGRAM COSTS

Our fees are only enough to cover costs for textbooks and other materials. Due to the uncertainty of the Coronavirus affecting us again, these fees are to cover the cost of virtual learning for our children. Please also note that there has been NO increase in PREP fees since 2008.

The parish is asking \$25.00 per semester for one child or \$50.00 for the year. If the entire fee is paid at registration, there will be a \$5.00 discount or \$45.00 for both semesters for one child.

For more than one child \$43.00 per semester or \$85.00 for the year. If the entire fee is paid at registration, there will be a \$10.00 discount or \$75.00 for both semesters for more than one child.