



August 24, 2020

Dear Our Lady of the Lake Religious Education Families,

Greetings in Christ the LORD! This past year has been interesting to say the least. It has been filled with many challenges and new opportunities for all of us to grow closer together as a parish family and in our own families. I am so proud of all of you and our parish for all the ways we have, despite the challenges and difficulties that this pandemic has caused, have continued to keep Christ and His Church at the center of our lives and parish community.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility with Bunnie and I as we navigate these new waters and strive to provide an orthodox and dynamic religious education program for our parish families. We are pleased to present to you our program for this year. We realize that this is not a one size fits all approach, but through a lot of prayer and thought we feel that this is best and safest program we can offer this year. This decision was also based on the decisions our two local school districts have made with their back to school plan for our students. As always, we are always willing to work with each of your families to reasonably accommodate any special needs and/or concerns that you may have, but we hope that this program strikes a balance between the essential aspect of our kids' Catholic education and the health and safety of our kids and families that we need to ensure during this pandemic.

For Kindergarten through 10th grade we will be going to a homeschool curriculum with the use of monthly Zoom meetings. These Zoom meetings are for review and to have some instructional time with your child's catechist. *Please ensure we have a valid email address to send the Zoom invite to.* We will be using grade appropriate workbooks with lesson plans for at home use. If you do not have internet access, please contact the religious education office. The exception to this new schedule will be the Confirmation class. They will have in person instructional time. Enclosed are the dates and times for both book pick-up in the Social Hall and the Zoom meetings. These Zoom meetings are scheduled for one hour. Depending on the individual class they may run shorter or longer. Please volunteer with your child's catechist to be a 'parent/adult' on the zoom meeting. Diocesan mandates that either two people with clearances or one person with clearances and a parent be on the Zoom meeting. You only have to volunteer one time for the entire year. Attendance at these Zoom meetings are essential to helping us help your child on their faith journey. That is why we are requiring an 80% attendance to be moved up to the next grade level. Our main purpose is not to add more to your busy and uncertain schedules, but to help you with religious instruction while keeping us all safe at the same time.

We are very happy to announce the start of Online Registration. The link to the form is on the enclosed schedule. Also, check your email, there should be a link to the online registration form. If not, our parish website, Facebook page and myParish app all have links to the form.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact either Bunnie, in the Religious Education office, (814-734-3113x102) or myself, (814-734-3113x101).

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan Hoffman
Bunnie Shinsky