

2020-2021 PLAN FOR YOUTH EVANGELIZATION
St. John the Baptist – Office of Religious Education
Family Edition

Dear Families,

We believe that supporting you as your child's primary catechist is crucial to our mission. In these uncertain times, we have outlined three plans for us to follow this year. In these plans, we must be attentive to current local health and safety guidelines, especially from the Ohio Department of Health.

Plan A

Plan A will serve as our best-case-scenario this year. This plan makes our program look like a normal year with some adjustments. We have considered schedules, peoples' comfort levels, and the needs of our parish when putting together this plan.

*K-12th Grade will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 8pm. Revisions to this plan or to certain grade levels could take place based on the criteria at the start of the new year in regards to the number of students and catechists we have.

*We believe that in-person religious education is the best for children. The sense of coming together with others to learn about our faith is so important. This plan allows for normal in-person sessions if we have catechists and enough students in each grade level to allow for this.

*A hybrid program that involves 50/50 in person and online/at home learning could take place if the above criteria are not met.

Plan B

Plan B will serve as the back-up plan. If we would not be able to meet in person, or it becomes impractical to meet in person we would fall to this plan. Unlike this previous Spring, we have time to plan ahead. If we would move Youth Evangelization to 100% Online/At Home, we will be prepared to transition without missing a beat.

Some things we will consider in order to provide support to your family:

*What activities/resources would work well with families?

*Textbooks? Discussion questions? Activities? Games? Fun Zoom calls? Weekly prayers?

*Plan to effectively communicate the shift from plan A to plan B.

Our great team of catechists along with our Coordinator of Religious Education will look at each grade level and put in place the best practice of at home learning we can.

Plan C

Plan C is what we will use on a case-by-case basis with families who, for one reason or another, are not taking part in the parish program but still want to be involved. Nothing is ever perfect, even with two plans in place! Some families may not be comfortable attending in-person. Other families may not have access to the internet. We will always be here for support for our families even if it is through at home formation.

For those who are interested in plan C, it is recommended that you contact our Coordinator of Religious Education as soon as possible to discuss at home options and get registered.

In the event that public Masses are cancelled, all Youth Evangelization, Faith Formation, Religious Ed, Youth Ministry will also be cancelled (in so much as you are meeting in person. An online format may begin/continue, as well as the home-based approach). The Archdiocese and/or Pastor reserves the right to cancel in-person Youth Evangelization events prior to the cancellation of public Masses if necessary.

We want to ensure a safe environment for all our students. We will be working with the Marion Local Schools to make sure that classrooms and other occupied areas are cleaned before the resumption of religious education. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom. Students and catechists will be required to either wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer before entering the classroom.

We plan to do our best to keep students distanced six feet apart. This spacing should be maintained as much as possible which will differ based on the layout of each classroom in the schools. No books or other resources will be shared amongst students.

We ask that all parents monitor your children for any new or changing cough, congestion, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell or gastrointestinal symptoms.

You are encouraged to check temperatures at home prior to attending class; students with a temperature of 100.4 or other symptoms described above should stay home. If a student or adult tests positive, the parish will be notified by the local county public health department of the student's residence. Parents whose children may have come in direct contact with the student or adult should be notified of the presence of a positive case, to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.

Our catechists and volunteers will record their temperatures when they arrive for religious education. If they have a temperature of 100.4 or have other symptoms (new or changing cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or gastrointestinal, etc) they may not participate in religious education that day and should return/stay home and consider coronavirus testing.

We will follow the directives of Gov. DeWine and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati*. Currently, all catechists and volunteers will be required to wear masks/face coverings. Students in the 4th grade and up will be required to wear a mask/face covering unless they fall into one of the exempt situations. Students in kindergarten – grade 3 will be encouraged to wear a mask/face covering.

We're looking forward to a great faith filled year spreading lots of J O Y !!!! If you have any questions please contact Chris Wibbenmeyer, Coordinator of Religious Education at (567) 279-1430.

In Christ,

St. John Religious Education Committee

*When new directives are published from the Archdiocese, we will communicate those updates/changes to all of our families via Flocknote.