

Plans for the St. Agnes RE/YM 2020-2021 School Year

We are so excited to have you join us for Religious Education and Youth Ministry this year! We have been working hard to get ready for classes this fall amid this global pandemic. We are looking forward to collaborating with you and continuing to walk with you on your child/ren's faith journey. This cooperative effort should be an exciting adventure for all of us!

We know it is a crazy year but Jesus' love is never closed, so we are pleased to announce that we are providing two different options for RE/YM this year: hybrid and homeschool.

OPTION 1: THE HYBRID MODEL

In this model, classes will be held every other week - one week in-person and one week distance (online) learning. This option allows for us to switch to 100% in person or 100% distance (online) learning depending on the circumstances which could include a government-imposed shutdown, a confirmed case within the RE/YM program, a department of health advisement, etc.

Schedule will be as follows:

During Week A, Elementary students meet in person while MS/HS has distance learning (online) lessons.

Week A - Gr. K-2: 5:30pm - 6:30pm and Gr. 3-5: 6:45pm - 7:45pm

During Week B, MS/HS meet in person while Elementary has distance learning (online) lessons.

Week B - MS 5:45pm - 7:00pm and HS 7:15pm - 8:30pm

The RE/YM Calendar has been updated to reflect these changes.

Distance learning (online) lessons will be provided via the online learning platform Flipgrid (<https://info.flipgrid.com/>) for elementary students and Google classroom for MS/HS students.

Per Diocesan direction, all of our staff and volunteers will be required to wear masks. With the current state mandate, everyone over the age of 5 years old must wear masks indoors through the end of September. If you arrive without one, we will have a limited supply of disposable masks available. However, we have compassionate understanding for those who are unable to wear masks. Please talk to Mrs. Gretzinger if you have questions or concerns.

Students will be spread out in one of three locations (the cafeteria, the library or the social hall) to maintain appropriate physical distancing of 6 feet. Each session will use different tables and chairs. Cleaning will happen both before and after every session and hand sanitizer will be available in each location as well.

In order to maintain a safe environment, all materials/snacks will be set up at the tables prior to the students' arrival. Students may bring their own water bottles to class. Water fountains are only available to refill water bottles.

Bathrooms will be closely monitored and cleaned often. Only one student may be in the bathroom at a time (given the size of the bathrooms) to allow for appropriate physical distancing. If at all possible, encourage your children to use the restroom at home both before and after RE/YM classes.

No items will be shared among students. Each student will receive a personal tote bag (purchased by the parish) to bring to class which will include the following items: textbook, folder, Bible, crayons, writing utensils, scissors, notebook, etc. along with a monthly calendar designating weeks that are "in-person" and weeks

that are distance learning. All homework/projects/announcements will be sent home in that bag. However, weekly emails and reminders will continue.

All other expectations are the same as laid out in the annual parent handbook which can be found on our website.

Arrival:

Cars will line up to drop off their students. A map will be sent out and an area will be designated with cones. Students will be checked in at the door and proceed to their assigned class area. Please do not come into the building, unless you are volunteering or have a pre-arranged appointment, as due to safe distancing rules, we are limited in the number of people we can allow in the building at the same time.

We are asking people to self-monitor at home. Please check your child's temperature prior to bringing them to class as we will not be taking temperatures when they enter the building. Please do not bring your child to class and call them in sick if they have a fever of over 100.4F or are exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches

Headache

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or runny nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

We will no longer be meeting in a large group for announcements and prayer.

Pick-Up:

Same procedure for picking up as dropping off.

High School students who drive: You may park your car as normal. When approaching the building, you will be checked in at the door. Please use appropriate physical distancing if a line for checking in develops.

OPTION 2 - HOMESCHOOL

Parents may choose to homeschool their child/ren for the year. This has been an option at St. Agnes for many years.

I have a lesson plan calendar written for all homeschooling students. This follows the same lessons the other RE/YM students are using in class and with distance learning on Wednesday nights.

Please plan on attending all parish events as part of your homeschooling program. This includes Masses, penance services and other parish events. It's a great way to stay involved in our parish community.

Please have the students keep a learning log in a notebook detailing what they learned with you at each lesson. It's a good way for me to see what they've been doing since we only meet twice a year. Please bring the notebooks with you to our meetings. I will keep them after our final meeting in May/June.

I will be calling you in January and in April/May to set up meetings (either in person with appropriate physical distancing or virtually via Zoom) to determine how the students are doing with the homeschooling. This is a Green Bay Diocese requirement for me so that I can truthfully say that I know what the students are

learning at home. Please bring the learning logs, textbooks, worksheets or anything else you've been using to supplement your experience at home.

If your student is in MS or HS, he/she must complete at least 10 hours of service by the end of April 2021. A list of suggestions will be provided.

If your student is in MS or HS, he/she must participate in a retreat experience. We will be providing a variety of choices for families to choose from.

Sacrament Prep – 1st Reconciliation and 1st Communion

We will continue to use Our Sunday Visitor's *Encounter with Christ* program. The student completes this program at home with a parent/guardian. It utilizes both an illustrated book as well as online instruction. The hope is to have an in-person retreat prior to First Reconciliation in January 2021 and an in-person retreat prior to First Communion in April, but due to the current pandemic, we are taking things one week at a time!

Sacrament Prep – Confirmation

We will continue to use *Decision Point* by Dynamic Catholic but we will be adding *7 Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* by the same company. Classes will follow the hybrid schedule. The hope is to have an in-person retreat in March 2021 and an in-person retreat prior to Confirmation at the Cathedral in May 2021, but this could change due to the current pandemic, so we are taking things one week at a time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

We will continue to monitor the situation closely throughout the year because as we know, other than God, the only thing constant is year. We will keep you informed as quickly as possible. We ask for your patience and understanding throughout this ever-evolving situation.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact Deborah Gretzinger, the Director of Religious Education at dgretz1@yahoo.com (email), 920-494-6450 (office) or 920-737-6972 (cell).

