



Dear Parents, Students and Religious Education Staff/Volunteers:

St. Patrick Parish in unity with all parishes in the Diocese of Tucson will resume Religious Education Classes for K-12, and Sacramental Classes with online classes October 1st as part of Phase I in reopening religious education. Phase II will follow in 2021 which will allow in person religious education. St. Patrick Parish/St Michael Mission will be conducting a hybrid learning program during Phase II for those students enrolled in a sacramental program. Students will be participating in an online curriculum program and will be participating in various ministries during their second year. Students participating in grade level online curriculum will participate with their parents in monthly workshops/ conferences to establish community and reinforce their lessons, faith and christian community.

The Religious Education registration schedule will be as follows:

- St. Patrick Parish/St. Michael Mission - Registration period: September 21-30, 2020. All registration will be conducted via online fill form submission to the Director of Religious Education (DRE) and or postal mail service. DRE's communication with applicants' parents/guardian and student/adult student will be via email, phone call or google meet.
 - Current 2020 2nd year Confirmation class online curriculum - Call to Mercy (St. Mary's Press)
 - Sacramental Mass for these confirmation students will be held as scheduled through the Tucson Diocese calendar in conjunction with St. Andrews Church in Sierra Vista in 2021.
 - 1st year (2 year program) 1st Communion/Reconciliation, and Confirmation students online curriculum - Catechismclass.com (2nd year consists of ministry participation if and when it becomes safely feasible during 2021/22 Phase II)
 - K-12 religious education grade level online curriculum - Catechismclass.com

The Religious Education Parent Expectation for online curriculum during Phase I and Phase II:

- Parents will be informed that they will be expected to participate in their students religious education by;
 - Working with them and assisting their student(s) in reading the material (if needed) and reviewing the lesson topic to assure they are comprehending the material. This will be expected for all grades. This is a self paced online curriculum to be completed within 2 year programs.
 - Participate in each activity example to enhance the lesson.
 - Assure they will be online with their student for the workshop/conference/instruction live stream a monthly requirement first program year and during Phase II during

ministry participating parents will be attending 3-4 Sunday's per month with their student.

- Parents will be asked to work with their student at the minimum of 1 hour per Sunday or as time permits within the week.
- Parents will be required to email any questions or concerns throughout the program to assure the students needs are being met to stpatrick.religiousedu.bisbee@gmail.com
- Parents will be following the calendar as scheduled, see Exhibit A. First Phase I workshop/conference/instruction will be via online on October 3, 2020. Classes will be self paced online that can be finished within the two year program. First year of scheduled contact periods from October to July are 11 via the monthly workshops/conference/instruction allotted time. Phase II- allowing in person ministry participation during the second year of the program contact period increases to approximately 3-4 Sunday's per month from September to April.

The Religious Education Compliance Plan for Safety:

- Parents, students and staff/volunteers will be provided guidelines for online safety in two phases. Initially at the time of registration parents will be provided the online safety guidelines and Permission form, see Exhibit B. A staff/volunteer training will be held where the guidelines for online safety will be reviewed and discussed, see Exhibit C (for Staff/Volunteers). Secondly, at the October 3rd workshop/ conference/instruction live stream safe environment will be the primary focus to ensure safe online practices.
1. Phase I Religious Education classes are to commence remote learning beginning no earlier than October 1, 2020. Phase II in person classes will commence at the direction of the Tucson Diocese in 2021 (date to be determined).
 - St. Patrick Parish/St. Michael Mission: The volunteer Religious Education Director had sought permission from the Department Of Pastoral Services Director, Office of Catechesis Tucson Diocese on February 20, 2020 prior to COVID19 knowledge, to utilize the online learning program Catechismclass.com to best serve the parish. This is a self-paced curriculum program.
 - Due to COVID19 restrictions the religious education department will remain closed for any in-person classes/workshops/conferences until Phase II is implemented by the Diocese.
 - Staff/Volunteers will be required to follow the self check guidelines prior to entering the parish office, religious education office, and facilities. To assure their compliance and not risk placing others at risk they will be required to sign an agreement, see Exhibit D.
 - Established prior to COVID19 restrictions, the regular check-ins with students and parents/guardians were scheduled to be monthly workshops/conferences to be held in the parish hall, once this is permissible under Phase II parents must abide by an agreement, see Exhibit E. Due to COVID19 restrictions these monthly check-ins will be conducted via Google Meet in which all online Safe Environment protocols will be followed. To maintain community, each workshop/conference-google meet format theme will be "We are the Church". The format to be followed will be:
 - Opening prayer
 - Praise and Worship: lead by music ministry or youtube selection
 - Introductions to help students put a face with another student, teacher, leaders.

- Presenters will focus on the topic “We are the Church” to build up the parish/student community by establishing a rapport and familiarity and a sense of family.
 - Continual orientation for students and parents/guardians to the new protocols and educating them will be implemented within the presentations.
 - Session for questions and answers regarding any material covered online or during the presentations.
 - Closing Prayer.
2. Resources or special guests that could help address any social-emotional issues can be distributed or presented and/or a survey to students and parents/guardians could be established to solicit their social and emotional needs to better serve them through future presentations or educational material that could be provided.
 3. Briefings prior to each scheduled workshop/conference to assure staff/volunteers presentations are cohesive, comprehensive, and unified. A debriefing after each event to assure the educational goals, objectives and social integration are clear in delivery.
 4. Religious education volunteer teachers and parish staff will be encouraged to participate in any and all programming available through the Diocese or online by an accredited program.
 5. If employees and volunteers need to work at the Parish, they will follow strict social distancing guidelines (6 feet apart), wear a facial mask when entering the facility at all times if a safe distance is not possible, utilize CDC hand washing protocols (signage will be placed in all bathrooms), utilize hand sanitizer (as needed while moving, touching objects within work station/area), sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of their elbow, disinfect work area (disinfectant spray bottles and towels will be positioned in each work station/area) before and after arriving and not congregating in groups. Individuals should work in their designated office, workspace, or classroom and leave as soon as necessary work is finished. (see Exhibit D). Signage will be posted throughout the office and common shared spaces of CDC approved hand washing guidelines, self check posters, 6 feet distancing and proper face masks and cough/sneeze protocols.
 6. The goal of protecting all students, families, volunteers and staff especially those from the populations made more vulnerable due to age or secondary health issues, must, and will, remain our priority.
 7. Religious Education will be conducted in accordance with all Covid-19 protocols established by the Diocese of Tucson as they contain the recommendations of the *Centers for Disease Control* and others with expertise in public health, as communicated through public sources on the national and local levels.

I will continue to monitor directives and communications from the Diocese with a goal of protecting all by providing the safest environment possible for Religious Education.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Wanda Leikem
Director of Religious Education (Volunteer)