

Dear Parish Families:

8/13/2020

All summer, the pastoral leadership and Second Hour staff have had numerous discussions about what are the best and safest options for our Second Hour program and families for this year. A great deal of thought, prayer, and consulting went in to this decision. Below is what religious education will look like for the Fall Semester (Sept-Dec):

### **SECOND HOUR**

**Students who do not participate in any religious education this year will not be promoted to the next grade level and will not be eligible for sacramental preparation (First Communion or Confirmation) for the 2021-2022 school year. Also, we will not be offering a Preschool/Kindergarten class for this year – we hope to resume this class in Fall 2021.**

### **Grades 1 & 3-7**

**For these grades, we will not have in person classes for the fall semester (Sept-Dec 2020). We will evaluate the situation in December and hope to return to in person classes for the Spring Semester.**

There will be two options for families to choose from.

- Families can choose to do the traditional homeschool option – taking the student book home and working through a chapter a week. This option will work very well for families who have one or maybe two students in the program or for families who do not have a good internet connection. It will also be a good option for families who are “zoomed out” and tired of everything being online.
- A second option will be a blend of homeschool and virtual learning – taking the student book home and working through a chapter a week with the addition of a bi-monthly online class to interact with their Second Hour staff, coaches and classmates (these online classes would be 15-20 minutes).

Both of these options will have routine ways of reporting progress to the parish.

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION PREP (Grade 2 +)**

**We WILL have in-person classes twice a month for our First Communion students.** These classes will be in the St Mary’s PMC on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8pm. Families will be doing some book work at home on the weeks that we do not meet in person. IF Defiance County were to go to a RED level or if schools would be shut down, in-person classes would be replaced with virtual classes until we are permitted to resume.

Families will have the option to prepare for sacraments entirely at home. Please contact Jessica West if you would like to pursue this option.

### **CONFIRMATION PREP (Grade 8+)**

**We WILL have in-person classes twice a month for our Confirmation students.** These classes will be in the St John’s Basement/PLC on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8:15pm. Students will participate in the Youth Group virtual class on the weeks that they do not have live classes. IF Defiance County were to go to a RED level or if schools would be shut down, in-person classes would be replaced with virtual classes until we are permitted to resume.

### **HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP (grades 9 – 12)**

**We WILL have in-person class twice a month for our Youth Group.** These classes will be in the St John’s Youth Building on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8:15pm. Online Youth Group will be offered on the weeks that we do not meet in person. IF Defiance County were to go to a RED level or if schools would be shut down, in-person classes would be replaced with virtual classes until we are permitted to resume.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with concerns or questions. We intend to offer classes on all weeks that we would typically meet and will soon have a schedule of in-person classes for the 3 levels that will be offered for the fall semester. We will also be offering a supply pick up date(s) for those to pick up books, schedule, etc. Follow the Second Hour FB page, Remind alerts, and parish websites for up to date info. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we strive to provide the best and safest way to help our parish grow in faith and love during this challenging time.

Blessings,

Jessica West

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