Parents and Students –

Hello and welcome to the 2020-21 Religious Education year! Like most things in 2020, our RE year is going to be a little atypical. Due to increases prevalence of COVID-19 cases in our schools and parish communities at this time, we've decided to start the year learning from home. This was not an easy decision and it is my sincere hope that this is a temporary measure and we can return to live weekly class in Lourdes on Wednesdays later this year.

So, what does this mean for week-to-week classes?

Our teachers will be preparing weekly lesson plans and communicating these via email, or text message if necessary, to our parents. Lesson plans will typically consist of unit-based reading from our RE textbooks and assignment(s) to supplement the in-class conversation and activities which would normally be part of class. These activities will vary on a class-by-class basis and will be largely at the discretion of our teachers. For older students, assignments could take the form of essay questions or a writing assignment pertinent to the weekly subject matter (for example). For our younger students, more parental interaction will be required for weekly lessons and assignment submission (as well as helping learn primary prayers through repetition).

I would encourage parents and students to keep 6:30-7:45 reserved on Wednesday evenings as we learn from home just like if we were holding regular class. It is my expectation that our teachers communicate their evening lesson plan and assignments at-or-before 6:30 PM on Wednesdays and any assignments are due at-or-before 6:30 the following Wednesday.

At this time, we are not starting the year with any virtual online classes, but it is something we'd be open to if both teacher and parents/students would be willing and able to commit to handling weekly classes in this way.

I can promise you 2 things:

1) It will not be perfect.

2) Our teachers and I will do everything in our power to help support and accommodate our students as we learn from home.

We are all in this together and I appreciate all your support during these challenging times. I look forward to a great (and unique) class year!

Chad Buckley
Holy Rosary Cluster DRE
515-290-5867
chadtbuckley@gmail.com

**Calendar of Events**

*Live Religious Education Classes meet from 6:30 – 7:45 PM at Lourdes*

| Date | Notes |
|---|---|
| 9/22/2020 | Registration Night 1 (Lourdes Hall, 6-8 PM) |
| 9/23/2020 | Registration Night 1 (Lourdes Hall, 6-8 PM) |
| 9/30/2020 | 1st Night of 'Learn From Home' Coursework given to students |
| 10/7/2020 | |
| 10/14/2020 | |
| 10/21/2020 | |
| 10/28/2020 | |
| 11/4/2020 | |
| 11/11/2020 | Reconciliation (including 1st Reconciliation for 2nd Grade; Lourdes Church) |
| 11/18/2020 | |
| 11/25/2020 | No Class (Thanksgiving Week) |
| 12/2/2020 | |
| 12/9/2020 | |
| 12/16/2020 | No Class |
| 12/23/2020 | No Class |
| 12/30/2020 | No Class |
| 1/6/2021 | No Class |
| 1/13/2021 | **Teachers Meeting at 6PM preceding Class* |
| 1/20/2021 | |
| 1/27/2021 | |
| 2/3/2021 | **Teachers Meeting at 6PM preceding Class* |
| 2/10/2021 | |
| 2/17/2021 | Ash Wednesday |
| 2/24/2021 | |
| 3/3/2021 | **Teachers Meeting at 6PM preceding Class* |
| 3/10/2021 | |
| 3/17/2021 | |
| 3/24/2021 | |
| 3/31/2021 | |
| 4/7/2021 | **Teachers Meeting at 6PM preceding Class* |
| 4/14/2021 | Last Class (pending make ups being required) |
| 4/21/2021 | Make Up (if needed) |

**Tuition and Fees:**

Dues for the school year are comprised of 3 different items:

1) Base Tuition
2) Consumable Books (Grades 1 – 8 only)
3) Sacrament Supplies (2nd Grade only)

- Base tuition is determined by the number of children attending Religious Education for your family. Family tuition rates are as follows:

| Number of Children | Base Tuition |
|---|---|
| 1 | 30 |
| 2 | 45 |
| 3 | 55 |
| 4 or more | 65 |

Some of our families have children who attend St. John's School of Religion in New Hampton once they reach High School. If one of our Combined Religious Ed families has a child who does attend St. Johns School, this child should be counted in on our annual tuition for the Combined Religious Ed.

- Consumable books are the books teachers will use for their evening lessons. Students are allowed to keep all books purchased. The Confirmation Class is a 2-year program. Our 9th and 10th Graders which make up this group will continue to use the set of 3 books which they purchased last year (and therefore do not have additional book fees for 2020-21).

  Consumable book fees are $20 per student (Grades 1 – 8).

- Sacrament Supplies fee applies to students receiving one or more Sacraments the 2020-21 class year. This year, it applies only to our 2nd Grade class who will be receiving their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

  Our Confirmation Class will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 2021-22 class year, and therefore will see this Sacrament Supply fee next year during enrollment.

  Sacrament Supply fee for 2nd Graders is an additional $20 per student.

*All Checks can be made payable to "Holy Rosary Cluster"

**If anyone has difficulty covering any of these costs, please let me know so I can assist in arranging assistance through the parish. I can be reached by phone at 515-290-5867 or via email at **chadtbuckley@gmail.com**.

**Cancellation due to Weather:**

For the duration of time which we are learning from home: Class assignments will be issued and due weekly regardless of weather cancellations within our school districts.

When we return to live class in Lourdes: It is our policy is that if Cresco, New Hampton or Riceville schools cancel or are let out early on Wednesday due to weather related conditions, we will not have religion. If weather improves, we will call if we decide to have class.

There may be occasions where school is held as scheduled, but late day weather conditions are such that Religious Education is cancelled. The best resource for immediate information regarding a decision like this is to follow Holy Rosary Cluster on Facebook, or if not a Facebook user, view our posts here as a guest:

**https://www.facebook.com/pg/HolyRosaryCluster/posts/**

If cancelling evening classes due to weather, we try make that decision and post no later than 5:30 PM.

Winter weather conditions can vary and escalate quickly by area given how spread out our parishioners are. Please use your discretion if road conditions in your area allow will allow safe travel. The safety of our students and families is our top priority.

**GENERAL RULES**

When learning from home:

1. It is my expectation that assignments are turned in timely and our teachers are not having to 'track down' assignments.

2. When regular live classes resume, it is expected that all students return to class as usual and we will discontinue the learn from home obligations for our teachers and students.

When we return to live classes:

1. The same rules pertain at religion class as apply at school –
    a. Students are expected to treat both teachers and their peers with respect and courtesy at all times.
    b. Proper dress is expected.
    c. No profanity or obscenities will be allowed.
    d. Gum, candy, pop, and outside food are not permitted in the classroom.
    e. Cell phones are to be silenced or powered off when entering the classroom. If cell phones are deemed a distraction in the classroom, teachers reserve the right to collect phones at the beginning of class and return them at the end of class.

2. Class will start at 6:30 p.m. Students are not to be admitted to their classes until 6:20 p.m. Parents, PLEASE do not bring your children any earlier. Class will be concluded at 7:45 p.m. Make sure your child has a ride home at that time.

3. Attendance will be recorded weekly. Be sure to contact your teacher or the DRE if your child is unable to attend. This includes submission of any any/all assignments while learning from home to start the year. If teachers are not receiving assignments and/or class feedback timely, this will be treated as being absent.

4. Excessive absenteeism will be addressed as needed.

## *RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DISCIPLINE POLICY*

If a student, while in the religious education program at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Lourdes, causes a disturbance or is a discipline problem, several steps will be initiated.

1. They will be reprimanded by the classroom teacher and warned of the first offense.
2. Second offense, they will be sent to the D.R.E. to discuss the situation. The child may-or-may not return to class for the evening based on the severity of the situation.
3. Third offense, the student's parents or guardians, the student, and the classroom teacher will be asked to meet with the D.R.E.
4. If a problem continues to exist, the student will be asked to leave the religious education program for the remainder of the year.

## *HELP FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE*

The Archdiocese of Dubuque has established a program of pastoral assistance to people who believe they or those in their care have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other Church personnel. This assistance will include help in informing civil and Church authorities. Victim Assistance Coordinators are trained to facilitate access to appropriate professional mental health services, social service agencies, support groups and/or individuals who can provide spiritual care. Any individual desiring help from this program is invited to call toll free 800-803-4536 to report an allegation or receive assistance. This program is part of the new "Policy for the Protection of Minors."