



ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE

The Catholic Center

OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

July 9, 2021

RE: 2021-2022 Religious Education / Faith Formation

Dear Pastors and Parish Catechetical Leaders,

Parishes of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe may, at this time, plan on gathered (in-person) Faith Formation/Religious Education for the 2021-2022 Catechetical Year. Since the pandemic has not yet come to an end, there is still unpredictability with regards to future modifications to the Public Health Orders. Every parish should be ready to make changes in accordance with any promulgated health orders in the future. As of now and out of an abundance of caution for the unvaccinated and vulnerable among us, please abide by the following directives and attached best practices.

- For face-to-face, gathered instruction all protocols are to be followed:
 - 6-foot social distancing
 - masks must be worn by all
 - regular cleaning and disinfecting of the environment
 - frequent hand, washing opportunities should be available
 - hand sanitizers must be available (for older children who can safely use it)
 - should restrictions again be enforced, the percentage of those gathered or in attendance will not exceed the percentage allowed by the State of New Mexico Public Health Order and, where applicable, those of the Pueblo Governors.

- Remote learning (non-gathered/virtual) methods are to be made available to the families, particularly if parents have concerns or are fearful about sending their child to in-person classes.
 - Children may not be required to attend gathered formation classes against the parents' wishes or be penalized for their parents' decision.

Please remember that the parents are the primary catechists of their children and it is our responsibility as Catechetical Leaders to help, support, and make resources available to strengthen and inform the faith of parents. "The Church is called to cooperate with parents through suitable pastoral initiatives, assisting them in the fulfillment of their educational mission to become above all the first catechists of their own children." (2020 *Directory for Catechesis*, #124)

Sincerely in Christ,

SM Edna Pearl Esquibel, CSSF
Director of Faith Formation