

Disciples on the Way



St. Raphael Safe Return to Religious Education
Sessions 2020/2021

St. Raphael Safe Return to Religious Education

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Religious Education School Year

The joy of Jesus be with you. The following slide show presentation provides an outline of how St. Raphael will safely begin religious education school year. You will note there are guidelines that apply to all faith formation options we offer, and updates that are specific to Families of Faith, weekly class sessions, and high school Aftershock. We have done our best to address the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our youth and families based on guidelines provided by the CDC, DPI, and the Diocese of Green Bay. We ask for your patience and understanding as we know that things can change quickly due to the unpredictable nature of COVID-19.

Please review the following **carefully**. It is our deepest desire to partner with you as your child's first and most important example of how to follow Jesus. **In order to provide for the needs of all families, it is important that families register no later than August 21st.** You can register by **[clicking here](#)**. As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. We are one body in Christ and we do not stand alone!

Blessings,

Jessie Adrians (jessie.adrians@raphael.org)
Director of Religious Education

Health and Wellness Guidelines: Sunday School, Weekly Class Sessions, High School Aftershock, and Families of Faith

- **Social Distancing:**

- Reduced class sizes will accommodate for six feet social distancing.
- Social distancing guidelines will be enforced in all middle school EDGE and high school Aftershock gatherings and/or small break out groups.
- Plastic dividers will be placed between children when working at tables. Dependent on the size of the classroom, **most** classes will be no more than six students.
- Social distancing will be enforced when in common areas, such as the sanctuary and Good Samaritan Hall, and when transitioning from one area of the building to another. This will be done means of visual cues such as tape on the floor, etc.

Health and Wellness Guidelines: Sunday School, Weekly Class Sessions, High School Aftershock, and Families of Faith (Con't)

Masks:

- All staff members, volunteers, parents, and visitors who enter our building must wear a mask at all times.
- All children and youth must wear a mask at all times.
- Children and youth with documented medical conditions are not required to wear a face mask. For these individuals, a face shield is recommended.
- Masks may be removed when eating.

Mask Guidelines:

- Masks should fit over the nose and mouth and fit securely under the chin.
- Masks should fit snugly against the sides of the face.
- Masks should be washed regularly
- Please label all masks. We have masks available at church should the need arise.

Health and Wellness Guidelines: Sunday School, Weekly Class Sessions, High School Aftershock, and Families of Faith (Con't)

Increased Cleaning/Sanitizing

- All common areas are cleaned regularly and will be sanitized after they are used at the end of each class session.
- Surface areas in all classrooms will be sanitized by volunteers and staff after each class session.
- Hand sanitizing stations have been installed in common areas such as the gathering space.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available in all classrooms.
- Students will sanitize or wash their hands before using any shared materials.
- The use of shared materials will be minimal and all shared materials will be sanitized after use.

Health and Wellness Guidelines: Sunday School, Weekly Class Sessions, High School Aftershock, and Families of Faith

Babysitting

- We usually provide babysitting for families during parent/child classes and other family events. Unfortunately, due to the current health crisis we cannot provide babysitting at this time.
- Younger children may come to sessions with parents.
- If childcare is a concern please contact Jessie Adrians (jessie.adrians@raphael.org) and I would be happy to share any resources I have to assist your family.

Health and Wellness Guidelines: Sunday School, Weekly Class Sessions, High School Afterschool, and Families of Faith (Con't)

Absences or Illness

- Parents/guardians are responsible for checking their child's temperature. If he/she has a temperature higher than 100.4° he/she should stay home.
- If a child/youth appears to have a temperature in class, his/her temperature will be taken and parents/guardians contacted if he/she is ill.
- Individuals who have a fever (100.4° or higher) may not return to RE until they have been fever-free AND non-medicated for 72 hours (unless a medical professional documents an earlier return time).

Health and Wellness Guidelines: Sunday School, Weekly Class Sessions, High School Aftershock, and Families of Faith (Con't)

Verified COVID-19 Case

- Parents/guardians are required to notify Jessie Adrians, the director of religious education immediately if their child tests positive for COVID-19.
- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, the DRE will notify local health officials, staff and families of any case of COVID-19
- If a youth, parent, volunteer, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Winnebago County Health Department will conduct a contact tracing investigation for all those who were in close contact (less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes).
- All individuals in this situation may be isolated or quarantined for 14 days as per the Winnebago County Health Department.
- An individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive documented permission from a medical professional or the county health department to return to RE.

Particular Adjusts to Faith Formation Options

In addition to the safety protocols that apply to all faith formation options at St. Raphael, the following slides will detail adjustments that apply specifically to the following options. Click on the link (s) that applies to your family.

- [Weekly class sessions \(grades 1-8\)](#) *Slides 10-14*
- [Sunday night Aftershock \(grades 9 and 10\)](#) *Slide 15*
- [Families of Faith](#) *Slide 16*
- [Click here](#) to jump to final reminders and considerations

COVID 19 Adjustments to Weekly Class Sessions, Grades 1-8

Due to the need to reduce class sizes in order to accommodate social distancing in the space available the following adjustments have been made to the calendar for **weekly class sessions** that meet on the following days/times:

- Tuesdays, 4:30–6 pm
- Wednesday, 4:30–6 pm and 6:15–7:45 pm

A/B Schedule:

- Students registered for weekly class sessions will attend class every other week. Families will be assigned to either an “A” week or a “B” week. [Click here](#) to view the schedule dates in detail.

COVID 19 Adjustments to Weekly Class Sessions, Grades 1-8 (con't)

A/B Week Schedule Details:

- Every effort will be made to assign children in the same family to the same week. We ask that all families register no later than **August 21st** to aid in this process.
- Parents will be notified in a confirmation letter sent on **Sept. 3rd** which week their family has been assigned.
- On the weeks that children and youth are not in class, they will have an activity to work on **with** their parent/guardian at home.
- This activity will then be brought back the following week and integrated into their class time.
- We will be utilizing the series [Families of Faith](#) from Sophia Press as the curriculum for weekly classes. This series has activities that apply to children grades 1-8 so families may work together.

COVID 19 Adjustments to Weekly Class Sessions, Grades 1-8 (con't)

Support for parents:

- Parents are the first and most important role model of what it means to follow Jesus ([CCC 2226](#)). It is our desire to partner with you this year.
- Usually we ask families to attend one parent/child class per child. Due to the unique nature of this year, we are inviting all parents to attend **four sessions during the year** so that we can better support you as you work with your children at home.
- [Click here](#) to see the specific dates of the parent sessions.

COVID 19 Adjustments to Weekly Class Sessions, Grades 1-8 (con't)

Parent Session details:

- The sessions are held in the sanctuary during the first hour of your child's class time on a week where they have class at church.
- The sessions will give you practical tips and strategies to prepare you to work with your child during the weeks they are working with you at home.
- All families will be provided with one parent guide to use as a resource when they work with their children as well as specific activities that they will work on until the next parent session date.
- Families will have time to build community together and share strategies for working with children at home.

At least one parent/guardian **must** attend all four sessions. If you need to miss a session due to illness or family emergency, please contact Jessie Adrians so accommodations can be made.

COVID 19 Adjustments to Weekly Class Sessions, Grades 1-8 (con't)

Entering:

- Everyone should enter through the main doors. We ask that social distancing be observed.
- Those who enter the building should put on masks before entering

Exits: To avoid crowding in the hallways at the end of each class session, the following procedure will be followed:

- Children in 1st and 2nd grade will accompanied into the gathering space where parents will meet the child. There will be a staggered release of 1st-2nd grade classrooms to avoid congestion in the gathering space.
- Children in grade 3–5 will exit out the doors located near the bike racks and meet their families in the parking lot.
- Youth in grades 6–8 will exit out the doors in Good Samaritan Hall and meet their families in the parking lot.

[Click here](#) to jump to final reminders and considerations

COVID 19 Adjustments for Sunday night Aftershock (Grades 9/10)

- Youth will gather in the sanctuary rather than Good Samaritan Hall in order to follow social distancing guidelines.
- Because transition time will be needed following the Sunday 5 pm Mass, **Aftershock will be 6:30–8 pm**, NOT 6–8 pm.
- A meal will not be served.
- To see the dates Aftershock meets, [click here](#).
- [Click here](#) to jump to final reminders and considerations

Families of Faith

- Due to an increased need for catechists for the youth breakouts to accommodate for social distancing, **the August 30th meeting will be PARENTS ONLY.** This allows for more time to find volunteer catechists. Details on the August 30th meeting will be sent to families on August 16th.
- Families will gather in church rather than the hall in order to socially distance family groups.
- Snacks will be individually packaged and the group will be split in half so a fewer number of people are in the hall to allow for six feet between family groups.
- More details on youth and adult breakouts will be given on August 30th.
- [Click here](#) to jump to final reminders and considerations

Final Reminders and Considerations

- We ask all families to register by August 21st. You can find the registration by [clicking here](#).
- Due to the rapidly changing nature of the COVID-19 global pandemic, adjustments may need to be made. We will communicate any changes in as timely a manner as possible.
- Due to decreased class sizes, we have a greater need for volunteer catechists. If you think you can help, please contact Jessie Adrians (jessie.adrians@raphael.org). Catechists receive a 50% discount on tuition.
- Parents who serve as catechists will teach both A and B weeks and be given resources, support, and training as part of their ministry as catechists, so they will not be required to attend parent sessions.
- If you have further questions or concerns please contact Jessie Adrians via email or call the parish office (920) 233-8044.
- I invite all families to join the RE team in interceding to [Our Lady Undoer of Knots](#) as we move forward in the faith and love of Jesus together.