

**Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Miami, AZ  
 Holy Angels' Parish, Globe, AZ  
 Religious Education Remote-Distance Learning Plan  
 2020-2021**

Our sister parishes remain committed to continuing its religious educational programs through the delivery of the following remote-distance learning plan as a method and option of assisting the family, the domestic church, in the basic teachings of our Catholic faith and preparation of our essential sacraments. This phase one plan is necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic and will remain in place until communal safety is deemed appropriate by official public health and governmental agencies, and with approval of the Tucson diocese, to move forward with a phase two plan. OLBS and HA parishes, to the best extent possible, will work to meet the needs of families, catechists and both parish communities.

**Per Phase I Diocese of Tucson Guidelines**

<p>1.</p> <p>Parishes remain closed for in-person classes for religious education. Remote learning opportunities may be provided to students at all grade levels and regular check-ins with students and parents/guardians can be conducted.</p>	<p>Catechism Programs</p> <p>Parents with registered children in grades K-12, and registered adults 18+ will choose the remote/distance learning plan that will accommodate their needs. We will use the same curriculum materials and mode of delivery choices for sacramental preparation programs. All curriculum materials meet grade level religious education standards and differentiation is practiced for the needs of the students with parent/guardian assistance. <b>Sacramental Masses</b> are not being planned for the fall. They will be regularly scheduled in the spring and early summer of 2021.</p> <p><b>A. Independent online</b> curriculum monitored by parents, and supported by OLBS/HA catechists through the curriculum website account, Zoom platform, email and/or phone call. Parents and students can access as often as they wish and will be followed up weekly by catechists. Parents and students will be given the online “netiquette” policies, as required and recommended by Diocesan best practices and safe environment policies for online education. (catechismclass.com)        This curriculum supports all grade levels; K-Adult</p> <p><b>B. Group online class</b> via the Zoom platform using the following materials:        Grades K -8 (catechismclass.com, Formed.org, existing Sadlier and/or Faith &amp; Life curriculum)        High School (catechismclass.com, Dynamic Catholic, Formed.org)        Adult (catechismclass.com, Formed.org)        Classes will be held weekly. Parents and students will be given the online “netiquette” policies, as required and recommended by Diocesan best practices and safe environment policies for online education.</p> <p><b>C. Home catechesis</b> led by parents; monitored and supported by catechists. Grade-level materials will be distributed to</p>
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	<p>families from existing parish curriculum: Grades K-8 (Sadler and/or Faith &amp; Life) High School (Dynamic Catholic) Catechists will monitor and follow-up with parents and students through weekly emails and/or phone calls.</p> <p><b>Calendar:</b> Classes are scheduled to begin October 4<sup>th</sup> with the following number of classes per program. The programs listed below normally run on Sundays from 11:15 to 12:30 with the exception of RCIA and Youth Ministry (Confirmation) at 1:00 – 3:00, and First Holy Communion on Wednesday afternoons, 3:30 – 5. Online class times and communications will need to be rescheduled for families with more than one child in different programs. Our religious education staff will develop a schedule once we receive registrations and assess the needs of our families.</p> <p>K-8; 25 classes Youth Ministry (HS 9-12); 24 classes First Holy Communion; 26 classes Teen Confirmation; 25 classes RCIA; 22 classes</p> <p><b>Registration:</b></p> <p>Parents/Guardians will register their children for religious education programs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Accessing registration packets on our parish website</li><li>B. Calling the parish office to have registration packets emailed</li><li>C. Stopping by the parish office to pick up registration packets, making sure to practice health and safety protocols, i.e., wearing face masks and hand sanitizing</li><li>D. Picking up registration packets at the church entrance</li></ul> <p>Parents/Guardians will return necessary registration forms including signature pages for online policies, parental expectations during remote/distance learning, and safe environment information, with registration fees by returning them to the parish office practicing health and safety protocols, i.e., wearing face masks and hand sanitizing. Office staff will forward questions and communications to the Director of Religious Education as necessary.</p>
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**Parent Expectations:**

Parent/Guardian Expectations for Remote/Distance Learning & Online Policies will be included in the religious education registration packet. Parents/guardians will return a signature page stating they have read and understood the expectations and policies. Parents/guardians will take full responsibility of providing online supervision and monitoring their own children at home (grades K-12). Parents will be encouraged to have their children engaged in the registered parish program at least 1.5 hours per week not including regular prayer and catechesis given throughout the week by parents and family. Parents may also contact the parish office for any questions they may have. The parish office staff will refer questions and/or concerns to the Director of Religious Education if they need to be further addressed.

**Compliance Plan:**

Catechists/Religious Education Volunteers

Diocesan video will be shown and discussed via the Zoom platform, or through small group (social-distanced, mandatory face masks and hand sanitizing) in the parish hall if necessary; and annual attestations will be signed in September before classes begin October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Parents/Guardians

Parents will be given "*Circle of Grace*" informational materials in student registration packets. They will be instructed to carefully review the material and attend an online Zoom meeting in October to discuss the materials in order to prepare their children for the curriculum. Those who cannot attend Zoom meetings will be called to discuss materials by the Director of Religious Education and/or the Compliance Officer.

Students

Catechists will teach "*Circle of Grace*" grade-level curriculum to their students in November via the Zoom platform. Students who do not have online capabilities will receive paper packets in the mail. Catechists will make phone calls to students (using paper packets) during scheduled class times in November to discuss the material with the children. Catechists may need to communicate with parents of children in the primary grades to assist with this instruction. Catechists will communicate with students again in February to re-assess the curriculum using methods stated above.

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2.	Parish Work Environment
<p>If employees and volunteers need to work at the Parish, they should follow strict social distancing guidelines and not congregate in groups. Individuals should work in their designated office, workspace or classroom and leave as soon as necessary work is finished.</p>	<p>Catechists and volunteers will have the option of instructing and communicating with parents and students from a designated work space from their home or <b>in their assigned classroom</b>. They will follow the online “netiquette” policies, as required and recommended by Diocesan best practices and safe environment policies for online education.</p> <p><b>When choosing to work in the classroom</b>, they will follow CDC safety guidelines for reducing the spread of COVID-19 which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staying home when sick or displaying symptoms of COVID-19</li> <li>- Avoiding any group congregation or social gathering, and maintaining a 6 ft. social distance when other persons are present on site</li> <li>- Wearing of face mask in common areas</li> <li>- Disinfecting used space and objects before leaving the classroom/work space; maintaining a clean classroom environment with appropriate hand-sanitizing</li> <li>- Leaving classroom and parish site upon completion of necessary work</li> </ul> <p>Catechists and volunteers will communicate with one another through Zoom meetings, emails, texts and/or individual/conference calls.</p>

3.	Safe Hygiene Practices
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<p>All staff, volunteers, and parishioners are asked to practice good hygiene:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frequent handwashing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer; especially after touching used items or surfaces</li> <li>- Avoid touching your face</li> <li>- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow</li> <li>- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible</li> <li>- Wear face coverings in common areas</li> </ul>
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<p>4.</p> <p>Develop and implement health and safety policies in accordance with state and federal health guidance and informed by best practices in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Social Distancing</li> <li>-Symptom Check</li> <li>-Cleaning/Disinfecting; strictly enforced for common and high-traffic areas according to CDC guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>Health &amp; Safety Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) <u>Stay home</u> when sick or displaying symptoms of COVID-19, tested positive for COVID-19 (even if displaying no symptoms), or if a person believes he/she has been exposed or in contact with someone who has COVID-19.</li> <li>B) <u>Avoid group gathering or congregating</u> and use 6 ft. social distancing when other persons are present on site.</li> <li>C) <u>Use proper hand hygiene/respiratory etiquette</u> by frequently washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer when touching or handling used objects; and coughing or sneezing into a tissue and discarding tissue into the trash immediately with follow-up of handwashing/hand-sanitizing.</li> <li>D) <u>Frequently disinfect used objects</u> with disinfectant wipes or disinfectant solutions and paper towels; discard immediately into trash and follow hand hygiene.</li> <li>E) <u>Complete symptom check form</u> when accessing on site classroom. Catechists will prepare this form at home immediately before arriving to parish classroom and notify DRE of on-site presence for pick-up of the form. Catechists may not be on-site if they have a temperature above 100.4 and/or answered “yes” to any questions on the symptom</li> </ul>
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5.	Create & Maintain Community
<p>A) Plan to re-connect with students in a meaningful way when they return to religious education.</p> <p>B) Plan to increase connections, one could say constant communication, with parents/guardians throughout the year.</p> <p>C) Orient students and parents/guardians to the new protocols and educating as the “why”.</p> <p>D) Plan to address social-emotional issues in terms of engaging and monitoring students, both remotely and when in-class instruction begins.</p> <p>E) Plan for continued, collaborative learning community of employees and volunteers.</p> <p>F) Plan for training, as needed, in remote-learning both for teachers and for students.</p>	<p>A) The first day of religious education will include ice-breaker activities for students and catechists to get to know one another. Welcome back posters will be created at home and parents can take pictures with their phones and submit them to the parish for inclusion on our website and social media pages.</p> <p>B) Catechists will maintain communication with parents/guardians a minimum of once a month or as necessary through phone calls, texts and/or the Zoom platform. Parish will communicate messages through the website and Facebook/social media.</p> <p>C) Parents will be given the opportunity to discuss new educational protocol during their Zoom compliance meeting in October. Those not in attendance will be given the opportunity for questions and/or concerns in a brief email/text on the topic.</p> <p>D) Catechists will address observed social/emotional behaviors to the Director of Religious Education who may discuss with the Pastor before following up with parents/guardians and communicating with them where referral options may be provided. Compliance and mandated reporting will be initiated by any parish staff member if necessary.</p> <p>E) The Religious Education Team will meet monthly via the Zoom platform in collaborating curriculum, calendar and celebratory ideas as well as discussing necessary concerns. Two meetings will include professional development opportunities via Formed.org.</p> <p>F) The Director of Religious Education will provide training for the religious education team on remote/distance learning procedures and modes of curriculum delivery. Two meetings will be scheduled in September and questions, concerns and troubleshooting will be discussed at monthly meetings.</p> <p>Catechists will provide remote/distance learning procedures for students and parents/guardians. They will communicate Zoom meeting dates and times and how to access this platform, catechismclass.com, or paper packet material follow-up communications through emails, texts</p>

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	and/or phone calls.
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