

Good Shepherd Church

School of Evangelization ~ Religious Education Office



*“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd
lays down his life for the sheep.”
(John 10:11)*

30 July 2020 A.D.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

These past months have been extremely challenging for all of us. The coronavirus has caused much demand on our spiritual, mental, and bodily health. Unknowing the details about the coronavirus, the uncertainty of the potential for the coronavirus resurfacing with a second outbreak, and continuing social distancing requirements as mandated by the state and diocese we are reacting with the utmost caution for our students, families, volunteers, and staff.

The recommendation by the diocese is to take abundant precautions to safeguard the well-being of all. After inquiring with our neighboring parishes the consensus is to move with precautions, act upon authoritative data from the state, and recommending guidelines from the diocese. After speaking with Rev. Fr. Thomas Doyle our pastor and in complete agreement with our catechists we are pursuing the diocese’s recommendation(s).

Come September 2020, we at Good Shepherd Parish will be offering only online digital learning for all Grades 1 - 7 in 2020 - 2021 Faith Formation Year. We will be discontinuing our Wednesday onsite classes in Grades 1 - 8. *We are pursuing this recommendation out of abundant precaution so as to continue to safeguard the health and well-being of all our students, families, volunteers, and staff.*

What does this mean?

- 1) Come the new Faith Formation Year 2020-2021 we will *not* be offering onsite classes on Wednesdays at Good Shepherd Catholic Academy.
- 2) We will offer *only* Online Digital learning for Grades 1 - 7 through My Catholic Faith Delivered (MCFD).
- 3) We are planning to provide Spiritual Enrichment Seminars onsite in the future. However, that will not happen until we receive definitive permission and guidelines from the diocese. We will continue to monitor the local government and diocesan health and safety regulations.
- 4) Click on this link for this year's application for registrations and fees. Please print clearly all the information especially - an active parent's email address is required...
http://goodshepherdbrooklyn.org/religious_ed/
- 5) Moving forward emails will be our primary channel of communication. We will continue to also update our parish website...
www.goodshepherdbrooklyn.org
- 6) There are three registration applications. You need only complete one application that compliments your child's(ren's) grade level:
 - First Time Registrants in Grade 1 (and all other *New Students* regardless of grade level).
 - Returning Students in Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7.
 - Grade 8 - Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

7) MCFD Online Digital Learning:

- My Catholic Faith Delivered (MCFD) is a global online Catholic digital learning school.
- Once we receive your application our office will register your child.
- You will receive an email from MCFD they will provide a direct link and case sensitive password.
- Your child's class begins once he/she receives from MCFD his/her link and case sensitive password.
- Please be sure you carefully enter the case sensitive password. If you incorrectly type the case sensitive password after several attempts the login feature will automatically lock you out because of its security feature(s).
- Please remember to check your "Spam/Junk" email folder as new emails sometimes default to junk folder until clicked on.
- Both MCFD and our Catechetical team will monitor students progress and provide regular updates/communications via MCFD platform and from our parish email account.
- Students will need access to a computer, laptop, e-book, and internet from home.
- Students will need to complete one lesson per week.
- Students will be able to access lessons at any time and pursue lessons at a pace conducive to the students learning needs.
- There is no fixed schedule as to when a student needs to log on.
- A lesson consists of Pre-Assessment, Lesson, and Post Assessment. All three components of the lesson must be completed 100%.
- Please click on this link as a tutorial for MCFD Online lessons...
<http://goodshepherdbrooklyn.org/mcfd/>
- The lessons have full audio and visual features.
- The student interacts with an automated platform not with a LIVE teacher.
- MCFD platform fully records students progress, such as: logging on and off, how much time a student spends on lessons, that the lesson has been completed fully, grades, etc.
- MCFD is a highly user-friendly platform.

- Parents are reminded to monitor their child(ren) lessons. However, please do not complete the lesson for them. The purpose of these lessons is to build a personal relationship with our *Lord and God Jesus Christ*.
- If you are experiencing tech issues, please send us an email with details and include your child's name, grade level, the parent's active email that is being used by MCFD.
- Online students will have until Wednesday, June 30th 2021 to complete all lessons.

7) Grade 8 Students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- Students will need to complete their requirements by attending the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) and Retreat, submit Saint's Report (if you haven't done so already), and submit Registration Application and all paperwork and fee.

We face some continuing challenging times and to help maintain safety for all we will move very slowly especially with any future onsite gatherings. In consideration of ongoing health updates and the need for adapting to emerging changes we will move SLOWLY to help meet your needs throughout the new faith formation year.

These are very challenging times to our Spirit, Mind, and Body. It is especially important to continue to build our relationship with our Lord and God Jesus Christ. We encourage praying the Holy Rosary and consecrating yourselves to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph our Holy Family (see the links below). Please please be sure you continue to be nurtured at Holy Mass, the very core of our Faith is our Eucharistic Lord.

May our Lord continue to bless you and your loved ones:

***“The LORD bless you and keep you!
The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!
The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!”***

(Numbers 6:24-26)

If you have any questions/concerns at this time, please advise us at your convenience. Thank you for your continuing prayers, support, and dedicated love of faith formation.

Pax Christi,
Mr. Robert A. Ruggiero
Pastoral Associate/DRE

Contact Information

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Links to Devotionals:

How to Pray the Holy Rosary

<https://www.rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary/>

Consecration to the Sacred Heart

<https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/act-of-consecration-to-the-sacred-heart-of-jesus.html>

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart

<http://www.rosary-center.org/consecrt.htm>

Consecration to Saint Joseph

<https://yearofstjoseph.org/consecration/>