



St. Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC CHURCH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
PARENT HANDBOOK

2021-2022

St. Francis of Assisi

CATHOLIC CHURCH

September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The role of parents in Religious Education is of utmost importance. Vatican II presented the call that parents accept their role as primary educators of their children. It has come to be seen as a shared responsibility of Christ's faithful and a duty and right given first and foremost to parents because of their unique and close relationship with their children.

Canon 226, §2 "Since they have given life to their children, parents have a most grave obligation and possess the right to educate them. Therefore, it is for Christian parents particularly to take care of the Christian education of their children according to the doctrine handed on by the church."

Baptismal Rite:

You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

As ministers of Religious Education, we believe that assisting you as the primary educator of your children, is one of our most honored privileges. We know that the family is the primary community, the "**Domestic Church**", where faith is shared and nurtured. It is in the home where the children are first introduced to prayer and faith traditions. It is in the home that habits of church attendance are started and will be nurtured. The Church assists by providing formal catechesis. Thus the bond between home and church enables, empowers and nurtures families to be living examples of Christ and builds up the Kingdom of God.

Parents need to give visible signs of their faith through prayers, worship and sacramental celebrations. It is important that parents make religious education a priority so as to enrich our children's lives with our Catholic values and traditions. Religious Education must begin with regular attendance at the Sunday Liturgy, thus providing a sound basis for RE classes. Regular attendance in Religious Education is essential so choose your session carefully to keep conflicts to a minimum. Successful formation takes place **primarily in the home** and it is most important that your child sees your commitment to your faith. Genuine religious education informs, forms, and *transforms*.

The Religious Education Catechist is merely an assistant to the parent's role in this process. The Religious Education Team builds upon the foundation that you have laid in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of faith, imparting accurate knowledge of tradition and doctrine. Feel free to contact us with questions or concerns, and please take every opportunity to discuss, share and build a faith relationship with your child.

In Christ,

Marianne Hayes

Marianne Hayes, DRE
Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
18825 Fuller Heights Road
Triangle, VA 22172

Introduction

Welcome to the Saint Francis of Assisi Religious Education Program. It is our hope that this parent handbook will serve as a guide and reference regarding various aspects of our program.

Religious Education Mission Statement

We at the parish of Saint Francis of Assisi look upon religious education as a total parish experience involving not just the child, but also the parents, families, catechists, clergy and all those who form the community of faith. We believe that religious education is getting to know Jesus and learning what is expected of one who chooses to follow Him in the Catholic Tradition. Our program reflects an integrated learning experience composed of catechesis, prayer, sacramental preparation, sacred scripture, Catholic doctrine, liturgy, community building and other aspects of a deeply spiritual life. Through the light of faith we hope to develop in those entrusted to our care a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord. We strive to build up the church, fulfill the message and mission of Jesus Christ, and to love God and all of God's creation by the inspiration and vision of Saints Francis and Clare.

The Goal of Catechesis

A sower went out to sow ... some seed fell along the path . . . other seed fell on rocky ground.. other seed fell among thorns ... and other seeds fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing, and yielding thirty fold, sixty fold, and a hundred fold.(Mark 4:3-8).

The seed is the Word of God and the sower is Jesus Christ. The seed falls on good soil when we make time in our lives for God, when we open our ears to the Good News, and when we live in solidarity with our neighbor. Saint Francis RE exists to help children and families to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. As Pope John Paul II wrote, "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit."

The Role of Parents

At their child's Baptism, parents undertake the responsibility of providing for their child's Christian formation. By word and example, parents teach their children from birth and throughout life. Saint Francis RE exists to assist parents in that task. Although each of our catechists works diligently to help children to grow deeper in faith, the parents' role in the faith formation of their child is absolutely essential and cannot be replaced. Therefore, it is essential that the foundation **is first** in the home of the child.

Parents are encouraged to:

Help your child grow in understanding by talking about what he/she learned in Religious Education.

Scripture reading and reflection.

Teach your children to pray by spending some time in prayer with them each day.

Bring your children to Mass every Sunday and do your best to help them understand and appreciate its importance.

Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Sunday readings with your family one evening during the week. The text of the Sunday readings is available online at www.usccb.org/nab

Provide a good Christian example for your children by continually striving to live your life according to the Gospel.

St. Francis of Assisi Religious Education

Classes begin the week of September 19, 2021

Registration for the Religious Education Program:

Parents must be registered parishioners of Saint Francis Parish in order to register their children in the Religious Education Program. Upon registration, full payment must be made unless arrangements are made for a payment plan with Francis House 703-221-6344. All information will be kept confidential. When registering for first grade or new to the RE program, a copy of the baptismal certificate must be submitted for each student.

****Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic some classes may be online.**

Sessions: Sunday	SUN: 9:30AM-10:45AM
Thursday	5:00PM - 6:15 PM

RE Fees: One child: \$110, 2 children: \$160, 3+ children: \$210, First Eucharist Fee: \$30, Confirmation Fee: \$75

Home Schooling for Religious Education: Parents are the primary educators of their children, especially in the area of faith development so home schooling is an option. As the primary teachers of the faith, parents are responsible to teach their children in the faith. The Religious Education program is a supplement to that process.

During the years of sacramental preparation however we prefer that children attend the RE classes for the strengthening of the idea of a faith community. Our sacraments are community celebrations and the child prepares for the sacraments within the faith community. Our children bring a wealth of faith experiences to be shared with others in the community. If home schooling is your choice, please fill out the registration packet or online form and pay the required fees. During the year, you will be required to attend all homeschool meetings and retreats as well as keep an accurate log of all RE homeschool hours. You must also turn in all tests attached to the log at the end of the year prior to the designated date.

Virtual Learning due to COVID-19

Some Classes may be held virtually until it is possible for the school and RE to safely have classes in the same building due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All classes will use the parish Zoom account. Classes will be held when the Catechist and the majority of students can meet. Parents must sign the"

Consent for Online Education Platforms" diocesan form prior to the beginning of classes. Parents will record class time on the homeschool log for each child.

Reintegration into the Classroom Guidelines- (In effect until all restrictions are lifted)

The parents will sign a waiver of liability for each child to re-enter the classroom. A health screening must be done prior to each class in addition to temperature taking. Masks must be worn. Classrooms will be disinfected before and after each session. Disinfection will be done by the cleaning staff and never by children in RE or school. CDC guidelines must be followed for cleaning. The classroom capacity will be set by the school and social distancing (6ft) must be followed. Children will have seating assignments. No socialization of parents or Catechists should occur. Car pool lines will be set up for drop off and pick up. Parents are encouraged to remain outside the school building when classes occur.

Students and adults are not to share items in the classroom. Students will not share school supplies. Students are to bring to class and take home school supplies and books each week. Accurate attendance will be kept in order to ensure proper reporting and contact tracing in case of COVID-19 exposure.

If any adult or child finds they were in close contact (less than 6ft. for 15 minutes or more) to a confirmed COVID case, they should quarantine for 14 days and watch for symptoms. A class will be canceled or go online if a student or catechist in the class has been diagnosed with COVID-19. A session will be canceled or go online if two or more classes have positive COVID cases. Parents will be notified if there is a possible exposure to someone with COVID-19. All information will be kept confidential.

*** **Please note** these guidelines do not apply to vaccinated people, please refer to the CDC guidelines for vaccinated Persons.

Special Needs Religious Education

Special Needs Religious Education is available. Parents should inform us of any learning difference, health challenge, language problem, or home situation which may affect their child's ability to learn or participate fully in class. Most children with special needs can be included in regular RE classes with assistance from an aide. We do have a class specifically for Special Needs children if that is what is needed for your child. RE desires to partner with parents to provide religious education and sacramental preparation for all children.

New to the Parish or Transferring

Students transferring from another parish's religious education program or from a Catholic school must supply the following when registering:

- A copy of your child's baptismal certificate
- Documentation of prior religious education or Catholic school completion (letter of verification, including attendance record) Students who enter the RE program without having celebrated the sacraments of initiation, and who are beyond the usual age for reception of these sacraments, may need additional formation.

Custody Issues

Please notify the DRE if only one parent/guardian has the custodial care of a child during class time. We must be aware of who may or may not pick up children during or after class.

Rights of Non-Custodial Parents

Both parents have access to a child's religious education progress reports and achievement information **unless** one parent produces a legal (court certified) document to the contrary.

Once we receive that document, it will be attached to the child's record and all catechists to whom the child is assigned will be informed of these special directions. Progress reports to the non-custodial parent will be provided upon request, which must be made in writing. Changes in the child's normal routine must be approved by the custodial parent in collaboration with the RE Office; catechists will be notified of these changes. No child will be dismissed from the program to the non-custodial parent without the written consent of the custodial parent.

Attendance:

Regular attendance at Religious Education (R.E.) sessions is important to the ongoing faith formation of students. The sessions are built on each other and carry a central focus throughout the year. RE attendance should **take precedence over all extra curricular activities.**

Excused absences are defined as those involving personal illness of the student, death in family,

During the year, parents are asked to notify the office if their child will be absent. This will allow us the opportunity to put together home assignments for the child. ***Students in sacramental preparation(1,2,7,8, SPI,SPII,Teen Sacramental Preparation) may not miss more than 3 scheduled classes to be considered ready for reception of the sacraments. Non- Sacramental grades (3,4,5,6) may not miss more than 4 classes for the year to be counted. Please contact us immediately if there is a family situation that will impact your child's attendance.**

Inclement Weather: Cancellations will be posted on stfrncis.org. Current RE families that have provided updated email addresses will receive an email and text message via Flocknote.

Email and text notification is sent to all RE families as soon as possible. When Prince William County Schools are closed or dismissed early and all after school activities are cancelled on a Thursday **due to the weather** (not Transportation), RE classes on Thursday will be cancelled. In case of inclement weather on Sunday, please check your email.

Please make sure your email address and cell phone number is updated in the RE Office.

The student must complete all class work and homework. If a student is ill, the parent should notify the RE office prior to class to report their absence. When a child will be absent, parents should speak with the catechist and cover the chapter at home.

The **RE Calendar** is available online at stfrncis.org under learn/religious education/welcome introduction or in the Religious Education Office.

Tardiness

Please bring your child to class on time. Children who arrive late not only miss out on important information and class time, but they also disrupt the class. The child's tardiness will be recorded and once the minutes have accumulated to the amount of one class, an absence will be recorded.

Communication

Announcements regarding parent meetings, special events, deadlines, etc. will be communicated to parents through the following ways: Sunday bulletin, text messages, e-mails, and website.

It is the responsibility of the parent to make sure that the RE Office has an up to date email address and phone number on file. **It is the responsibility of the parent** to check the website and bulletin for program and sacramental updates.

Student Progress Reports: Reports will contain record of attendance, mastery of curriculum and behavior. They will be emailed in January.

Students will be monitored by our Catechists and RE staff throughout the year. This will include: attendance, participation and cooperation. Should any concerns arise, parents will be informed.

Parents may contact the Religious Education Office at 703- 221-3127 any time to discuss any issue or ask a question.

Drop Off

Parents should park and accompany all children into the school building and to their classroom. On Sunday, the lanes in front of the school are to be for access to the handicap spots and not for drop off, please go around and park and walk your child to class. Do not park in front of the school.

Dismissal

Parents must collect their children in the school building and, for younger children (1-5), in the RE classroom. Students will be released only to their parents or an adult or older sibling explicitly authorized by the parents. Please inform the DRE and the catechist of any special custody situations. A Dismissal form **must be** filled out and turned into the RE Office with authorized persons listed on the form along with a working telephone number.

Please make sure that caution is exercised when walking in the parking lot. Under no circumstances are cars to block the lane in front of the school. The exit at the elementary wing is **never** to be used during RE. Under no circumstances is a child to walk home without an adult.

If your child must leave early please first obtain a form from the RE Office, no child will be dismissed without a signed form.

Early Dismissal

Parents **must come** to the RE Office prior to taking their child out of class for early dismissal. A form must be obtained from us to present to the Catechist. Repeated early dismissal requests by the parent will result in additional absences.

Lost and Found

If your child loses an item, please contact our office at 703-221-3127. We will do our best to assist you.

Supplies

Textbooks, pencils, crayons, etc. are provided. If the class is working on a special project, the parents may be requested to contribute extra supplies. The parent/guardian can purchase a second book online at loyolapress.com for grades 1-7 Christ Our Life Series Parish Edition from Loyola Press if the child should lose their book. If your child is in grade 7, 8, SPI or SPII classes please contact our office for lost books. The textbooks need to be brought to class each week unless otherwise notified by the catechists.

Textbooks

We use the textbooks Christ our Life series by Loyola Press for grades 1-7. Grade 6 will receive the "Prove it Bible" which needs to come to every class until Confirmation The website for addition information is www.loyolapress.com if your child loses their book, you must go online and order a new one. Make sure you order the parish edition.

8th grade Chosen for Confirmation series

The special sacrament classes; SPI, SPII, Teen Sacrament Class, SPRED, please call our office to order new books

Learning Environment

A welcoming and respectful environment is necessary to provide an atmosphere that is conducive to sharing and learning. Therefore, the following guidelines will apply:

- A.** All students must report to their classrooms **promptly at class time**. Student tardiness will Count towards an absence.
- B.** Students will **NOT** be allowed to use cell phones or any electronic devices during class time or special sessions. **All cell phones and electronics must be put away at the beginning of class.**
- C.** Students will be expected to follow the guidelines set forth by the catechists for appropriate behavior within the classroom.
- D.** Courtesy and cooperation is expected of each and every person involved in religious education formation.
- E.** Respect for the catechist, assistant and fellow students is required.
- F.** Care must be taken of classroom property: tables, desks, chairs, walls, posters, books, projects, etc....
- G.** Students **may not** leave early without a written note from parents.
- H. Disruptive Behavior**

The catechist is to send disruptive students to the Religious Education Office. If a student is sent to the Office a **SECOND** time, the parents will be notified. If the student's behavior is hindering the learning process, the parents and the child will be requested to meet with the catechist, and the Director of Religious Education to explore a solution to the problem or an alternative setting for the child's learning experience.

I. Student Progress Reports

Student Progress Reports will be issued in January. It will reflect attendance, participation, evidence of knowledge, attitude and behavior. We ask that you sign and return it to your child's catechist. The Director of Religious Education is available for follow-up conferences for any area of concern.

J. Absolutely NO FOOD is allowed in the classroom

Many of the school and RE children have life threatening food allergies.

K. Weapons Any student found with a weapon (gun, pocket knife, screw driver, explosive Device etc.) toy or otherwise, will be immediately dismissed from class and the parent/guardian will be contacted. Student will not be readmitted into class until parents meet with the DRE. This is for the safety of our students

Emergency Health and Safety Information

In case of injury or other emergency that affects a child, RE staff will call the child's parents immediately or 911 if warranted. If parents cannot be reached, the staff will call the person designated as an emergency contact on the registration form. If treatment is necessary and no parent is available for consent treatment will be sought for the welfare of the child. Personnel and catechists are not permitted by law to administer any medications or give medical advice to students. It is therefore imperative that parents provide our office with the necessary information in case it is ever needed. Parents are urged to inform the DRE or office in case a child is diagnosed with a medical condition or learning difference after registration has taken place.

Crisis safety management: intruder lock down, weather hazard or other threat will be handled following procedures established by our school, should they become necessary. No student will be released without parent's written instruction, personal identification and prior parent authorization. No student will be released to parent in the middle of an emergency situation unless parent signs them out.

All volunteers are instructed in emergency procedures; evacuation maps, first aid information is located in each classroom.

If a situation arises that requires building evacuation, the children will be brought to the church. If an offsite location is necessary, the children will be relocated to Triangle Elementary School, 3615 Lions Field Rd. Triangle, VA 22172

Curriculum Goals and Objectives

The Arlington Diocese Religious Education curriculum guidelines are available online at <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org>. The Loyola Curriculum has incorporated the guidelines from the Diocese of Arlington as they are the same as the US Bishops mandate. The Loyola texts are approved by the US Bishops Committee. The Christ our Life series by Loyola is what is used in the RE program.

For the scope and sequence of this program go online to loyolapress.com or stfrancis.org.

Formation in Christian Chastity

The Diocese of Arlington has issued a program for use in our schools and Religious Education programs. This program provides an on-going and progressive tool in assisting families in the formation of the virtue of chastity. The major focus is to provide the children with effective ways to deal with boundaries. To assist with this objective, the diocese has provided resources to be used both at home and in the RE classroom.

The materials are available for your review and use at www.arlingtondiocese.org.

Once at the site, click on *Child Protection* then place the cursor over the words *Formation in Christian Chastity*. A drop down menu will appear where you will click on your child (ren)'s specific grade. The information to be taught in the home is provided under the section, *For the Home*. In addition, lesson plans will be presented in the RE classroom for all grades. Our catechists will be presenting the materials under the section, *For the Classroom*. You will have the opportunity to consent for your child (ren) to participate in this learning session or you may opt your child out of the lesson on that particular day. You will be notified of the scheduled class times and your response will be required. The materials provided on the website can also be reviewed in the REOffice. **The opt- out form is located at the end of this handbook and needs to be turned in to the RE Office if you are opting out of this lesson.** The date of the lessons will be emailed to you. All homeschool students **must either** opt out or parents must teach this mandatory lesson.

Diocese of Arlington Child Protection Policy

The Diocese of Arlington and Saint Francis Parish are committed to ensuring the personal safety of all children in our program. Any adult who works with or have substantial contact with children or youngpeople at Saint Francis Parish are required to

- Complete a volunteer application form
- Pass criminal background check
- Take part in a four hour VIRTUS training session

Class aides under the age of 18 do not receive this Child Protection training; therefore they must be supervised at all times by an adult who has received this training.

All catechetical volunteers and staff are mandated reporters and are instructed in identifying and reporting suspected cases of abuse as prescribed by the Diocese of Arlington.

SACRAMENTS

Sacrament preparation for any of the sacraments, and for SP Children, requires two full years preparation.

For First Reconciliation and First Eucharist, the preparation time culminates no earlier than the child's 7th birthday. SP Children will enroll in the two year program, Sacramental Preparation for Older Children.

Our Confirmation candidates are required to make a commitment of two full years to their Pre-Confirmation and Post-Confirmation preparation.

Sacraments for Older Children

The sacramental preparation classes (SPI, SPII, and Teen Sacramental Prep) are for children ages 7 and above who have not been baptized and for children who have been baptized but have not received any formal religious education and are preparing for Holy Communion or Confirmation.

In the course of their journey a variety of resources are used that explore Catholic beliefs and practices from the perspective of the child.

Participation at Sunday worship is mandatory and essential in this process. Children can only learn the importance of the Mass and the Eucharist when they see their parents making it a priority in their own lives.

These classes are referred to as Sacramental Prep I and Sacramental Prep II, Teen Sacramental Prep (SPI, SPII) and are a two year process.

First Communion Preparation

The best preparation that the child can receive is to accompany their parents and family each week at Mass as they grow to have a sense of community and understand the importance of the Mass in the life of a Catholic Christian.

Each Sacrament requires a two year preparation; therefore, First Communion preparation will begin in the first grade. If a child misses first grade they will have to attend the first grade class as second graders.

Children must receive First Reconciliation before First Communion. Here at Saint Francis we provide communal First Reconciliation Services in February or March. The children still have the opportunity for one on one penance with a Friar. If you wish you may have them attend First Reconciliation on any given Saturday prior to First Communion, but please notify our office first.

All children are required to attend retreats and parent all meetings prior to First Communion.

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation preparation at St. Francis of Assisi requires a **two-year commitment** that usually begins in the 7th grade, being "Year I" preparation and ends at the completion of the 8th grade year

"Year II". **A meeting for parents and students to enroll in the Confirmation process is scheduled in the fall. Attendance at this meeting is required** for all students enrolled in RE and Catholic Schools **in order to be considered as**

candidates for Confirmation.

Young people are confirmed in their faith by being incorporated into a community of believers. This is an on-going process in which the adult community plays a vital role. These young people must witness a community that learns, shares, worships and serves together. It is the responsibility of parents and other adult members of the community to help those who are newly confirmed to understand that **Confirmation marks the beginning of their renewed commitment to the Church.**

**CONFIRMATION IS NOT
A GRADUATION.
CONFIRMATION
MARKS *THE*
BEGINNING OF A
COMMITMENT TO
LIVE AS A
DISCIPLES OF
*CHRIST***

Confirmation is the third of the Sacraments of Initiation, thus indicating **that one is equipped and ready to live the life of a committed Christian. Our newly confirmed are required to continue their commitment to grow in their understanding of what it means to live the Faith as a Confirmed member of the Church. The experiences of CYM support them as they go forth in their teen years.**

The Confirmation program here at St. Francis seeks to achieve a balance between a clearly academic religious education program and an informal, practical program. It is academic in that students are expected to master specific material and are held accountable for this material, just as in any other academic study. It is informal in that the text itself is conversational and engaging. The suggested lesson plans encourage student involvement, require minimal lecturing by catechists and challenges the students to live their faith.

Each year of preparation is supplemented with retreats, special presentations and learning experiences.

Outreach with Special Olympics. Bread for Life

Service projects that focus on the Social Justice Teachings of the Catholic Church are required outreach projects for our Confirmation students. The hours required for Confirmation are 15 hours of service in addition to participation in the Special Olympics basketball game and Bread for Life.

CYM (Catholic Youth Ministry) REAL

For grades 9-12. A great mix of formation and fun! Every year teens participate in a work camp experience. Schedule of events will be posted on the website for all events held during school year. CYM kick off in the fall and details will be in the bulletin.

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Parents and all adult Catholics are encouraged to strengthen their own faith. We cannot pass on vibrant faith to our children if ours is not strong. Check our website frequently for adult faith opportunities. www.stfrancis.org click on learn in the top menu and then adult faith formation.

Catechetical Volunteers

Catechists are women and men who are members of our parish family and have agreed to represent all of us in a specific area of ministry. In this ministry, catechists work as assistants to the parents who are the primary catechist. Our role is to help, not to replace the vital role parents have as the primary catechists. It is our role to help the parent's journey with their children as they deepen their faith and love for our Lord. We would like to thank all the young people and adults who are not mentioned here but volunteer their time in so many ways to help create a wonderful environment for learning, prayer and worship.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our program is only possible through the help of many volunteers. Here are the areas for you to consider helping out:

- **Catechists** (teachers): Introduce students to Jesus and our wonderful Catholic Tradition by allowing them to witness their love for Christ and the teachings of the Church. Training is available in the summer. We are always in need of Catechists.
- **Substitute Catechist**: lesson plans will be provided
- **Catechist Assistant**: Help the primary catechist (We welcome High School Students)
- **Hall Monitors**: Monitor activity in the hall during class time.
- **Office Help**: Weekly or when available

If you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, please contact the Religious Education Office.

Please be aware that all volunteers who have contact with children must:

- Submit to a Criminal History Background Check before beginning their

- volunteer assignment
- Attend a VIRTUS session
- Adhere to the practices stated in the Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Review the Safe Environments Policy set by the Diocese of Arlington
- Sign and return the "Confirmation of Receipt"

*****Please fill out all forms at the end of this Parent Handbook and return to the RE Office.**

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
Religious Education
703-221-3127 703-221-3246 (fax)
Website: www.stfrncis.org

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Forms Below:

WAIVER INFORMATION/RIGHT TO OBJECT

The Office of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Arlington (OCS) and any of its schools of Religion **may produce** or participate in videotape, audio recording, Internet (i.e., Website) or still photograph productions that may involve the use of students' names, likenesses, or voices. Such productions may be used for educational and/or school and/or parish marketing purposes and may be copied or copyrighted with the school retaining any and all rights to such productions. You have the right to object to the use of your child's name, picture, or voice in these productions and may do so by completing the form below and returning it to the principal of your school/ or Religious Education Office. If the form is not returned, we will assume that you waive your right to object.

PLEASE PRINT

To: **St. Francis of Assisi Religious Education Program**

Regarding _____ (Student)

Activity Permission Not Granted

- 1. Videotaping
- 2. Audio Recording
- 3. School Pictures
- 4. Internet
- 5. Television
- 6. School Promotional Literature _ _ _ _
- 7. Newspaper Articles/Pictures
- 8. Other, please specify

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____



SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING FOR CHILDREN OPT-OUT FORM

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth* and the safe-environment policies of the Diocese of Arlington require that all children in our schools and religious education programs be given safe-environment training that is age-appropriate and in accord with Catholic moral principles. The Diocese of Arlington provides such training through the curriculum entitled **Formation in Christian Chastity** (for children in Grades 1-8) and through a video entitled **You Matter** (for children in Grades 9-12). Both of the safe-environment programs for children are available on the diocesan webpage at: <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/childprotection/opcyp>

If you choose not to have your child participate in this training, you are required to complete this form, sign it and submit the original document to your child's teacher or to the established program representative at your parish or school to be kept on file for one year. Please complete one form per child.

Parish or School Name:

Child's Printed Name:

Child's Grade: Parent's

Printed Name:

By signing this official opt-out form, I **decline** to grant my approval for my child to attend the training described in this document. However, I understand that as the primary educator of my child, the Diocese of Arlington requests that I certify that I have provided such training to my child within the home by returning this form either to my child's teacher or the established program representative as an official opt-out. I also acknowledge that the appropriate safe-environment training materials have been offered to me.

Parent's Signature

Date

REQUIRED AGREEMENT
FOR PARISH FAITH FORMATION PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANT NAME(S): _ _ _ _ _

PARISH NAME: _ _ _ _ _

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN IF PARTICIPANT IS A MINOR: _ _ _ _ _

Assumption of Risk

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic and is contagious. As a result, in order to resume Faith Formation/Religious Education activities ("Faith Formation"), the Catholic Diocese of Arlington has established essential health and safety measures at the Catholic parish named above ("Parish"). The Parish has put in place reasonable preventative measures and standards of behavior, consistent with guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and state and local public health guidance, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Parish and Faith Formation activities. Even with implementation of health and safety protocols, however, the Diocese and Parish cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19, and participation in Parish and Faith Formation activities could increase your risk and/or your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19. Any interaction with others includes possible exposure to, and illness from, communicable diseases including COVID-19 and influenza.

I understand that I or my child(ren) have choices for completing Parish and Faith Formation activities at home, or in another manner. By returning to in-person Parish or Faith Formation activities, I give my informed consent for me or my child(ren) to participate and assume responsibility for the above-noted risks.

I willingly agree that my child(ren) and/or I will comply with the health and safety protocols established by the Parish, and will take all reasonable and necessary additional precautions to protect against communicable diseases while on Parish premises, not only for our own benefit but for the benefit of others with whom we may come into contact. We agree that, if we observe any objects, practices or procedures we believe to be hazardous while on Parish premises, we will remove ourselves from the location of such hazard and bring it to the attention of Parish administration immediately.

Liability Waiver

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and that my child(ren) and/or I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in in-person Parish and Faith Formation activities, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and/or death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the above-named Parish may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself, my child(ren) or others, including, but not limited to Diocesan or Parish administrators, employees, volunteers, and other program participants and their families.

I further agree on behalf of myself and/or my child(ren) named herein, and our respective heirs, successors, and assigns, to fully and forever release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, the named Parish, their clergy, administrators, employees, agents, members and volunteers ("Indemnitees") from any and all claims, damages, demands, and causes of action, present or future, known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, in any way related to exposure to COVID-19 while participating in Parish and Faith Formation activities, including but not limited to any claims of negligent exposure. This includes claims that arise from my own and others' acts, actions, activities and/or omissions, excepting only those which arise solely from the gross negligence, recklessness or intentional torts of indemnitees. I will defend and indemnify indemnitees with respect to any released claim, including but not limited to damages, costs and attorney's fees.

Responsibility for Health Screening

By execution of this Statement, I affirm that my or my child(ren)'s presence at named Parish on any day constitutes an affirmative representation on my part that I/we have performed the required health screening below and affirm that the responses to all questions are NO.

SCREENING QUESTIONS

"YES or NO, neither I nor my child(ren) have any of the following:"

- A fever of 100.4°F. (38°C.) or higher or a sense of having a fever during the past 72 hours
- New or unexpected cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- New shortness of breath or difficulty breathing that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- New chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- A new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition
- New muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise)
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Currently living with a person who has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 or is currently under quarantine due to close contact with a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19

"YES or NO, in the past 14 days, neither I nor my child(ren) have done any of the following:"

- Cared for or had other close contact with a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
- Travelled internationally

I understand that on any day when anyone in our household answers YES to any of the required health screening questions above, I and/or my child(ren) are not permitted to participate in in-person Parish and Faith Formation activities.

Need to Inform and Quarantine

I further understand, in the event that I/my child is suspected or confirmed positive with COVID-19 or has come in close contact with a person suspected or confirmed positive with COVID-19, my child will need to follow the CDC's guidance for isolation or quarantine as appropriate. Information is available at www.cdc.gov. I agree to inform the Parish administration as soon as possible, but no later than 1 business day, after learning of my/my child's suspected or confirmed positive case of COVID-19 and/or the need to quarantine due to close contact with a person suspected or confirmed positive for COVID-19.

I understand that I/my child may not return to in-person Parish and Faith Formation activities until approved by Parish Administration. Approval will be based on confirmation that the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation or quarantine has been met. For details reference:

For those suspected or confirmed positive: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/leaving-home-isolation.html>

For those quarantining due to close contact: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Authorization and Informed Consent

I hereby authorize the Parish to enforce such other reasonable measures and directives as may be deemed necessary by the Bishop of the Diocese of Arlington, its Office of Faith Formation, or the Parish leadership. I further understand that, in the event that it becomes necessary that classes should be cancelled or administered via distance learning, I will not be entitled to a refund of any of my fees.

This Agreement has been prepared in the English language, and the English version thereof shall prevail and be binding in the event of any inconsistency even though Spanish or other Language translation may also be prepared.

By execution of this Agreement, I understand and agree to the foregoing terms and conditions.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

ACUERDO OBLIGATORIO
PARA LOS PARTICIPANTES EN ACTIVIDADES PARROQUIALES DE FORMACION EN LA FE

NOMBRE DEL PARTICIPANTE: _ _ _ _ _

NOMBRE DE LA PARROQUIA: _ _ _ _ _

PADRE/MADRE/TUTOR LEGAL SI EL PARTICIPANTE ES MENOR DE EDAD: _ _ _ _ _

Asuncion del riesgo

La COVID-19, la enfermedad causada por el nuevo coronavirus, ha sido declarada una pandemia mundial y es contagiosa. Como resultado, con el fin de reanudar las actividades de formación en la fe/educación religiosa ("formación en la fe"), la Diócesis Católica de Arlington ha establecido medidas esenciales de salud y seguridad en la parroquia católica previamente citada ("parroquia"). La parroquia ha establecido medidas preventivas y normas de comportamiento razonables, compatibles con las directrices expedidas por los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) y la orientación de las autoridades de salud pública locales y estatales, con el fin de reducir la propagación de la COVID-19 en las actividades parroquiales de formación en la fe. Sin embargo, aun con la implementación de protocolos de salud y seguridad, la Diócesis y la parroquia no pueden garantizar que usted o su(s) hijo(s) no contraerán la COVID-19, y la participación en actividades parroquiales de formación en la fe podría aumentar su riesgo o el riesgo de su(s) hijo(s) de contraer esa enfermedad. Cualquier interacción con otras personas incluye posible exposición a enfermedades transmisibles, incluso a la COVID-19 y la influenza, y a sus manifestaciones.

Entiendo que tanto mi(s) hijo(s) como yo tenemos opciones para finalizar las actividades parroquiales de formación en la fe en la casa o de otra manera. Al volver a las actividades parroquiales de formación en la fe realizadas en persona, doy mi consentimiento informado en mi nombre y en nombre de mi(s) hijo(s) para participar y asumo responsabilidad por los riesgos previamente indicados.

Acepto voluntariamente que tanto mi(s) hijo(s) como yo cumpliremos con los protocolos de salud y seguridad establecidos por la parroquia y tomaremos todas las precauciones adicionales razonables y necesarias de protección contra las enfermedades transmisibles mientras estemos en la sede de la parroquia, no solamente para nuestro propio beneficio sino para beneficio de otras personas con quienes podamos entrar en contacto. Estamos de acuerdo en que si observamos objetos, prácticas o procedimientos que consideremos peligrosos mientras estemos en la sede de la parroquia, nos retiraremos del lugar de ese peligro y lo señalaremos inmediatamente a la atención de la administración de la parroquia.

Exención de responsabilidad

Mediante la firma del presente acuerdo, reconozco la naturaleza contagiosa de la COVID-19 y que tanto mi(s) hijo(s) como yo podemos estar expuestos a esa enfermedad o infectarnos por esa causa al participar en actividades parroquiales de formación en la fe realizadas en persona y que esa exposición o infección puede ocasionar lesión personal, enfermedad, discapacidad permanente, la muerte o todo lo citado. Entiendo que el riesgo de exposición a la COVID-19 o de infección por esa causa en la parroquia citada puede provenir de actos, omisiones o negligencia mía, de mi(s) hijo(s) o de otras personas, incluso, sin carácter limitativo, de los administradores de la Diócesis o de la parroquia, los empleados, los voluntarios y otros participantes en los programas y sus familias.

En mi propio nombre, en el de mi(s) hijo(s) aquí citado(s) y en el de mis respectivos herederos, sucesores y cesionarios declaro que acepto liberar, defender, indemnizar y eximir de toda responsabilidad por completo y para siempre a la Diócesis Católica de Arlington, a la parroquia citada, al clero, a los administradores, empleados, agentes, miembros y voluntarios ("indemnizados") por cualesquiera reclamaciones, daños y perjuicios, demandas y causas de acción, en la actualidad o en el futuro, conocidos o desconocidos, previstos o imprevistos, relacionados de cualquier forma con la exposición a la COVID-19 durante la participación en actividades parroquiales de formación en la fe, incluso, sin carácter limitativo, cualquier reclamación por exposición negligente. Esto incluye reclamaciones surgidas de mis propios actos, acciones, actividades u omisiones o de todos ellos y de los de otras personas, con la única excepción de los surgidos exclusivamente por negligencia grave, imprudencia o agravios intencionales de los indemnizados. Defendere y

compensare a los indemnizados con respecto a cualquier reclamación exonerada, incluso, sin carácter limitativo, daños y perjuicios, costos y honorarios de abogados.

Responsabilidades por exámenes médicos

Mediante la ejecución de la presente declaración, afirmo que mi presencia y la presencia de mi(s) hijo(s) en la parroquia en cualquier día constituyen una representación afirmativa de mi parte de que nos hemos realizado los exámenes médicos obligatorios que se indican a continuación y afirmo que todas las respuestas son NEGATIVAS.

PREGUNTAS DEL EXAMEN MEDICO

Si o NO. Ni mi(s) hijo(s) ni yo tenemos nada de lo siguiente:

- Fiebre de 100.4°F (38°C) o más o sensación de haber tenido fiebre en las últimas 72 horas.
- Nuevo episodio o episodio imprevisto de tos que no puede atribuirse a otra afección de salud.
- Nuevo episodio de falta de aire o dificultad para respirar que no puede atribuirse a otra afección de salud.
- Nuevo episodio de escalofrío que no puede atribuirse a otra afección de salud.
- Nuevo episodio de dolor de garganta que no puede atribuirse a otra afección de salud.
- Nuevos dolores musculares que no pueden atribuirse a otra afección de salud o a una actividad específica (como el ejercicio físico).
- Nuevo episodio de pérdida del sentido del gusto o del olfato.
- Náuseas, vómito o diarrea.
- Actualmente vive con una persona que ha presentado síntomas de la COVID-19 o está en cuarentena debido a contacto cercano con una persona con un caso presunto o confirmado de COVID-19.

Si o NO. En los últimos 14 días, ni mi(s) hijo(s) ni yo hemos hecho nada de lo siguiente:

- Cuidado o tenido otro contacto cercano con una persona con un caso presunto o confirmado de COVID-19.
- Viajes internacionales.

Entiendo que cualquier día en que alguien de nuestra familia responda AFIRMATIVAMENTE a cualquiera de las preguntas precedentes del examen médico obligatorio, no se permitirá que mi(s) hijo(s) ni yo participemos en actividades parroquiales de formación en la fe realizadas en persona.

Necesidad de informar y entrar en cuarentena

Entiendo además que, en caso de que mi(s) hijo(s) o yo tengamos un caso presunto o un caso positivo confirmado de COVID-19 o hayamos estado en contacto cercano con una persona que tenga un caso presunto o un caso positivo confirmado de COVID-19, tanto mi(s) hijo(s) como yo necesitaremos seguir la orientación de los CDC sobre aislamiento o cuarentena, según sea apropiado. Hay información disponible en www.cdc.gov. Me comprometo a informarle a la administración de la parroquia lo más pronto posible, pero a más tardar un día hábil después de enterarme de que mi(s) hijo(s) o yo tenemos un caso presunto o un caso positivo confirmado de COVID-19 o que necesitamos guardar cuarentena debido a un contacto cercano con una persona con un caso presunto o un caso positivo confirmado de COVID-19.

Entiendo que es posible que ni mi(s) hijo(s) ni yo podamos volver a asistir a actividades parroquiales de formación en la fe realizadas en persona hasta que lo apruebe la administración de la parroquia. La aprobación se basará en la confirmación de que se han cumplido los criterios de los CDC para discontinuar el aislamiento en caso de la cuarentena. Para mayores detalles consulte las siguientes referencias.

Para las personas con casos presuntos o casos positivos confirmados: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>

Para las personas en cuarentena debido a un contacto cercano: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Autorización y consentimiento informado

Por medio del presente instrumento autorizo a la parroquia a hacer cumplir cualesquiera otras medidas razonables y directrices consideradas necesarias por el Obispo de la Diócesis de Arlington, la Oficina de Formación en la Fe o la

dirección de la parroquia. Entiendo además que, en caso de que sea necesario cancelar las clases o administrarlas mediante el sistema de aprendizaje a distancia, no tendré derecho a recibir reembolso por cualquier pago previo.

El presente acuerdo ha sido preparado en inglés y, por lo tanto, la versión en inglés del mismo prevalecerá y tendrá carácter vinculante en caso de que haya alguna incoherencia, aunque se puede preparar una traducción al español o a otro idioma.

Mediante la ejecución del presente acuerdo, entiendo y acepto los términos y condiciones precedentes.

Firma del padre/de la madre/del tutor legal: _____

Fecha: _____