

June 3, 2021

Dear Parents of Religious Education Students,

I hope all families enjoyed a blessed Memorial Day weekend and beginning of the summer season. The Religious Education office hours remain the same throughout the summer: Monday through Thursday, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Feel free to stop by to ask questions or drop off paperwork. We'd love to see you!

This summer St. Francis de Sales is excited to bring back our very popular Vacation Bible School, July 12 through 16. This year's "*Wilderness Escape*" will take us on an exciting adventure with Moses and the Israelites in the desert! We welcome campers, 4-years-old through 5th grade. Registrations for campers continue through June 17. There are still openings for youth volunteers and **many volunteer opportunities for adults, so please consider helping if you are able.** Please go to our [website](#) for important details and [signup genius](#) if you'd like to sign up to volunteer. (Please note: Some mask restrictions have been lifted and waivers of liability are no longer required. We will follow the Diocese of Arlington protocols currently in place.)

Also with this letter, I'm including the [Registration Form](#) for the 2021-2022 religious education school year. With the pandemic easing and our church re-opening to full capacity, we plan to do the same with our religious education classes. Please get your forms and payment to us as soon as possible; it helps so much for our planning purposes as we set up classes and line up our volunteers! (A late fee will apply after August 31.)

All parents are also asked to complete a [Student Information Sheet](#) for each child which includes an Emergency Release, Pick-up Authorization with the option for remarks about a child's learning needs, medical concerns and/or allergies.

Classes will be offered for children in pre-K (Wednesdays only) through high school, with parent education programs available during some sessions. Homeschooling is still an option for children in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. Please call our office if your child is in a sacrament preparation year and your family has special circumstances that prohibit attending in-person classes.

For those of you who homeschooled your children this year, please make sure that your child completes this year's work before registering for the next grade level. The *My Catholic Faith Delivered* platform will be available through the summer if you were not able to finish during the regular school year.

If your child did not participate in one of our programs last year or has been away from religious education for an extended period, please contact me directly at k.livaudais@saintfrancisparish.org or 540-338-6381, ext. 115.

Regarding registration for the first year of the Confirmation program (usually in the 7th grade): students must understand all material presented on [6th grade level assessments](#), know the basic parts of the Bible and how to look up Bible passages, and know basic prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Apostles Creed) before beginning Confirmation preparation. If your child did not participate in a sixth-grade program and would like to begin preparation for Confirmation, please call or email our office.

The class schedule for the 2020-2021 school year follows:

**Sunday, 9:00 am to 10:15 (followed by *Family Mass* at 10:30)
Kindergarten through 8th grade, RCIC*, and Parent Program (TBA)**

**Sunday, 4:00 to 5:00 pm
High School – *History of the Church*, taught by Father Gould**

**Monday, 5:00 to 6:15 pm
Kindergarten through High School, RCIC*, RCIT*, and Parent Program (TBA)**

**Wednesday, 3:30 to 4:45 pm
Pre-K through 5th Grade**

**Wednesday, 5:00 to 6:15 pm
6th through 8th Grades**

Completed registration forms may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the office, or placed in the black drop box outside the front doors of our building. (Important Note: The drop box is only for registrations with a Parish Giving receipt. Please DO NOT attach checks or cash to registrations left in the drop box.)

We welcome all families back, whether you were involved last year or have been away for a while. As always, please reach out with questions or concerns. Have a happy, healthy and holy summer! We hope to see you around St. Francis soon!

God bless,
-Kim

Kimberly Livaudais
Director of Religious Education
540-338-6381, ext. 115

IMPORTANT PROGRAM NOTES:

****RCIC AND RCIT are one- to two-year programs for children who have not received Sacraments. RCIC is for children preparing for Baptism and First Holy Communion. RCIT is for older children and teens preparing for any of the Sacraments of Initiation.***

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES: Father Gould will continue to teach the “History of the Church” class on Sundays and Mondays. A high school enrichment class will also be offered this year, covered in four 6-week blocks focused on: Catholic Art, Literature, Architecture and Philosophy. A related field trip follows each block of classes. High school students will be required to show full knowledge of basic catechism (learned in Grades K-8) before registering for this class. More information TBA.

PARENT PROGRAMS: We hope to offer parent programs concurrently with children’s classes during selected sessions. More information TBA.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM: We plan to re-introduce a preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:45. Parents may be asked to volunteer as assistants periodically.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: *As in the past, Diocesan regulations require all volunteers to submit child protection forms and take a child safety class (Virtus). Please contact Janice Rees for details, j.rees@saintfrancisparish.org. Please complete and submit this [Volunteer Registration Form](#) if you are interested in helping as an assistant or hall monitor for any of our sessions. If you're interested in becoming a catechist, please contact our office. Weekly volunteers receive free tuition.*