

*Saint Catherine Labouré Church
Office of Religious Education
20 Shore Acres Avenue
Middletown, New Jersey 07748
732-769-6262*

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September 8, 2020

Greetings and prayers that you and your families are in good health and doing as well as can be expected under the conditions we now find ourselves.

As you know, Jackie Callahan has retired after serving this parish as Director of Religious Education for the past 30 years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the great work she has done for the children of this parish, and the many kindnesses she has shown to all. It is impossible to replace Jackie, but together, Kathy McGuire and I, will do our very best to continue her legacy of a religious education program that encourages children to know and love God, to love one another, and to appreciate the beauty and teachings of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

The guidelines of the Diocese of Trenton and the guidelines from the Governor of New Jersey due to Covid-19 are such that we will not be able to have our “traditional” CCD program this year. In order to comply with these new guidelines, we will have a “modified” in-person class CCD program. Each grade level will be divided into 4 small in-person classes. Students will meet in small groups once a month, and then be assigned work to be done at home for the following 3 weeks. The next in-person class the following month, the teacher will review the 3 weeks of at-home assignments before introducing the next chapter. To accommodate the small classes, teachers will be meeting every week of the month but with different students.

Classrooms will be sanitized before and after each class time. On the day of class, parents will be emailed a form to be filled out and returned either by email or by-hand. This is required before each monthly class according to the guidelines we have received and for the safety of all concerned. Each student’s temperature will be taken by a non-contact thermometer upon entering the school. Since the number of students in each class meeting will be small, this should run smoothly. ***Teachers and students, and anyone entering the building must wear a mask, unless there is a health risk for that individual.** Classrooms will provide seating arrangements at 6’ social distancing. Hand sanitizers will be utilized at the entrance of the school building.

In consideration of the on-line classes your children have had to participate in over the past few months and will have to do during this 2020/2021 school year for most public schools, we feel that a modified in-person class would be less stressful than having to do another on-line class. Religious Education is a different program than the program of education in other subjects. Community, gathering together in person, is vital to the success of a religious education program for many different reasons.

In the future, we will be communicating primarily by email. Therefore, **PLEASE PRINT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CLEARLY** on the registration form. We will put information pertaining to CCD on Facebook – **St. Catherine’s Religious Education-CCD.**

Please note: When the schools are closed for bad weather, we are closed as well.

FIRST GRADE: There is a separate registration form for students in First Grade since they are new to the Program. The Registration forms are available at the CCD Office. When you return the registration form, it must be accompanied with a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate.

Classes will still be 1-1/2 hours in length on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as follows:

Tuesdays	Grade 1 and 2	3:45 – 5:15 pm
	Grade 5 and 6	5:30 – 7:00 pm
Wednesday	Grade 3 and 4	3:45 – 5:15 pm
	Grade 7 and 8	5:30 – 7:00 pm

We would appreciate it if you would take the time to fill out the enclosed registration form(s) and return it along with the tuition fee to the CCD office **as soon as possible** so we can calculate the number of books to be ordered. As soon as we have all the registration forms returned, we will notify you as to what week of the month your child will be attending class. Classes will begin on Tuesday, October 20 and Wednesday October 21, 2020.

Please note that tuition is \$85 per child/maximum \$185 for 3 or more children. If anyone cannot afford the tuition, please contact me to make other arrangements.

I look forward to meeting you and your children. Please call me if you have any concerns with this new program, and we can discuss how to best resolve them.

Sincerely in Christ,

Carol Mulkeen
Director of Religious Education
Saint Catherine Laboure' Parish
c.mulkeen@stcathek.org

cc: Father Daniel Hesko
Mrs. Jackie Callahan

