

**Our Lady of Sorrows - St. Anthony Parish
Religious Education Office**

August 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I would like to provide you with this update on the status of our Religious Education Program for the coming year.

Since March all of us have been dealing with challenges posed by COVID-19. Thanks for your support and understanding during the transition that had to be made so quickly. Everyone did a great job!

Unfortunately, the virus continues to be a serious risk making our planning rather problematic. The various restrictions and health care precautions that are in place greatly impact our program. Monsignor Gervasio our Advisory Board and catechists have discussed the many factors that influence the format our program will take for the coming year.

Considering the fluidity of the situation as well as the State and Diocesan directives, we have judged that it is in the best interest of all concerned to offer **home based remote learning ONLY** for the first half of 2020-21 religious education year. In December, we shall evaluate our experience of this format and decide whether to continue or return to “in person” classes from January through May.

Details regarding this format are attached. Please review them carefully. Our dedicated catechists remain committed to providing your child with a religious instruction that is first-rate. Please contact me with any concerns or questions you may have.

Your understanding and support will help us make a smooth transition to this new format. Let us continue to pray for an end to this pandemic and all who are suffering through this difficult time.

Sincerely yours in the Lord Jesus,

Mrs. Mariyam Francis
Director

HOME BASED REMOTE LEARNING 2020-21
OUR LADY OF SORROWS-ST. ANTHONY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
OPTION A: HOME STUDY for GRADES 3 TO 6

Begins: Sunday, September 20

The home-schooling program already in place will continue for Grades 3 through 6 only

- Begins:
- Textbook and other resources will be provided through the parish
- The Religious Education Office will provide support to parent instructors
- Completion of weekly assignments is expected
- Parents are expected to participate in periodic meetings through the year
- Tuition fees are noted below

OPTION B: ON-LINE HOME STUDY for PreK, K, & GRADES 1 to 8

Begins: Sunday, September 20 or Wednesday, September 23, 2020

- Textbook and other resources will be provided through the parish
- Format: Google Meet & Google Classroom
- Students may register for either Sunday or Wednesday Classes
 - Sundays: 9:40 to 10:40 am**
11:00 am Mass at OLS in person or by Livestreaming
 - Wednesdays: 6:00 to 7:00 pm**
11:00 am Sunday Mass at OLS in person or by Livestreaming
- Time Commitment: 1 hour 40 minutes [class and subsequent assignment]
- Assignments: Weekly submission of chapter review emailed to catechist

TEXTBOOK PICK UP: OLS PARKING LOT SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

Pre-K to Grade 4: 9:30 to 11:00am **Grades 5 to 8:** 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM SPECIFICS

During the second week of September, the following will be sent to you via email:

- Calendar of the Catechetical Year
- The name of your child's catechist
- Details & Password for student account to access Google Classroom & Google Meet
[Same platform being utilized by Hamilton Township Public Schools]

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

At this point, parent meetings for the celebration of First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be virtual.