



*Catholic Community*

# Religious Education Family Handbook 2020-2021



"Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it." -Proverbs 22:6

**IF YOUR CHILD CANNOT ATTEND CLASS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.  
468-5718 or email at [re@popgb.org](mailto:re@popgb.org)**



## Welcome to our 2020-2021 Religious Education Program

We are excited to help you share the beauty of our Catholic faith with your children. This program incorporates hands-on activities and discussions in order to promote spiritual growth, as well as guidance with sacramental preparation.

In this time of COVID-19, participation in service opportunities and weekend Masses are strongly encouraged, but not required.

### Prince of Peace Religious Education Mission Statement

*Plant seeds of **faith** to grow personal **relationships** with Jesus and serve others, *cultivating* Missionary **Disciples** of Christ who cherish and share the tradition and beauty of Catholicism.*

Components of religious education classes:

- Teach by grade appropriate standards of the Diocese of Green Bay
- Follow the Liturgical calendar
- Begin with the Word of God/group prayer; end with gratitude intentions/group prayer
- Incorporate varied activities, student relationship building, and individual reflection
- Connect families to the classroom with Together in Faith nights and Masses. (Together in Faith nights postponed for this year).
- Enhance learning with technology and Christian music

### The Important Role of the Family Who Grows Together in God's Love

Parents are the first teachers of faith to their children; parents are responsible for getting their children to Heaven. A child's attitude toward mass, the sacraments, prayer, service to others and a Christian lifestyle grows out of a parent's example and attitude. The following are ways to nurture you child's faith formation:

- Attend Mass as a family each weekend as you practice your faith at home.
- Show interest by asking about the topic that was learned at class each week; encourage your child to talk and ask questions about our faith.
- Spend time teaching your children prayers and make prayer important in your home.
- Talk about where you saw examples of God in your daily life—in creation such as a sunset, a beautiful flower, the kindness of a stranger.
- Attend all Together in Faith nights and other Religious Education events. (All large group events are postponed for this year).

### COVID-19 Safety Procedures

For the safety of all, we have implemented the following procedures for this year. Please remind your children of these procedures before each class to help us ensure a healthy RE year for our families.

#### Masks

All students, volunteers, and catechists are required to wear masks while in the church during Religious Education. A face shield is not an appropriate substitute for a mask, as it does not provide adequate protection against the spread of infected droplets in the air.

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival: Students will be dropped off under the drop-off canopy in front of the main church doors. There will be signs indicating which door students should enter based on grade. Volunteers will be there to guide students and take their temperature as they enter.

Dismissal: Catechists will accompany students out of the church building when classes are over. Students will be dismissed in three areas (see diagram on the next page). To ensure the safety of your children, we ask that parents of students from grades 1 to 6 get out of the car and come to the sidewalk to meet their children and walk them back to the car.

## Temperature Taking/Sick Student During Class

As students enter the building, they will be directed to stand in a socially distanced line to wait to have their temperature taken. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will be asked to sit in the Conference Room and parents will be called to pick up their child.

If a student isn't feeling well during class, parents will be called to pick them up.

## Disinfecting

Students' hands will be spritzed with hand sanitizer as they enter the building. Disinfectant spray will be provided to all Catechists and all touched surfaces including bathrooms, door handles, tables, and chairs will be disinfected after each class. (THANK YOU KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOR COMING TO DISINFECT BETWEEN SESSIONS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!)

## Bathrooms and Water Fountains

Water Fountains will be closed during Religious Education. Bathrooms will be available only for emergencies. Please ensure that your children use the bathroom prior to attending class. In the case of an emergency, only one child will be allowed in the bathroom at a time.

## Positive COVID Test

The hybrid in-person schedule naturally allows for 14+ days between each class. However, if someone attending in-person RE classes tests positive for COVID, the families in that class only will be notified.

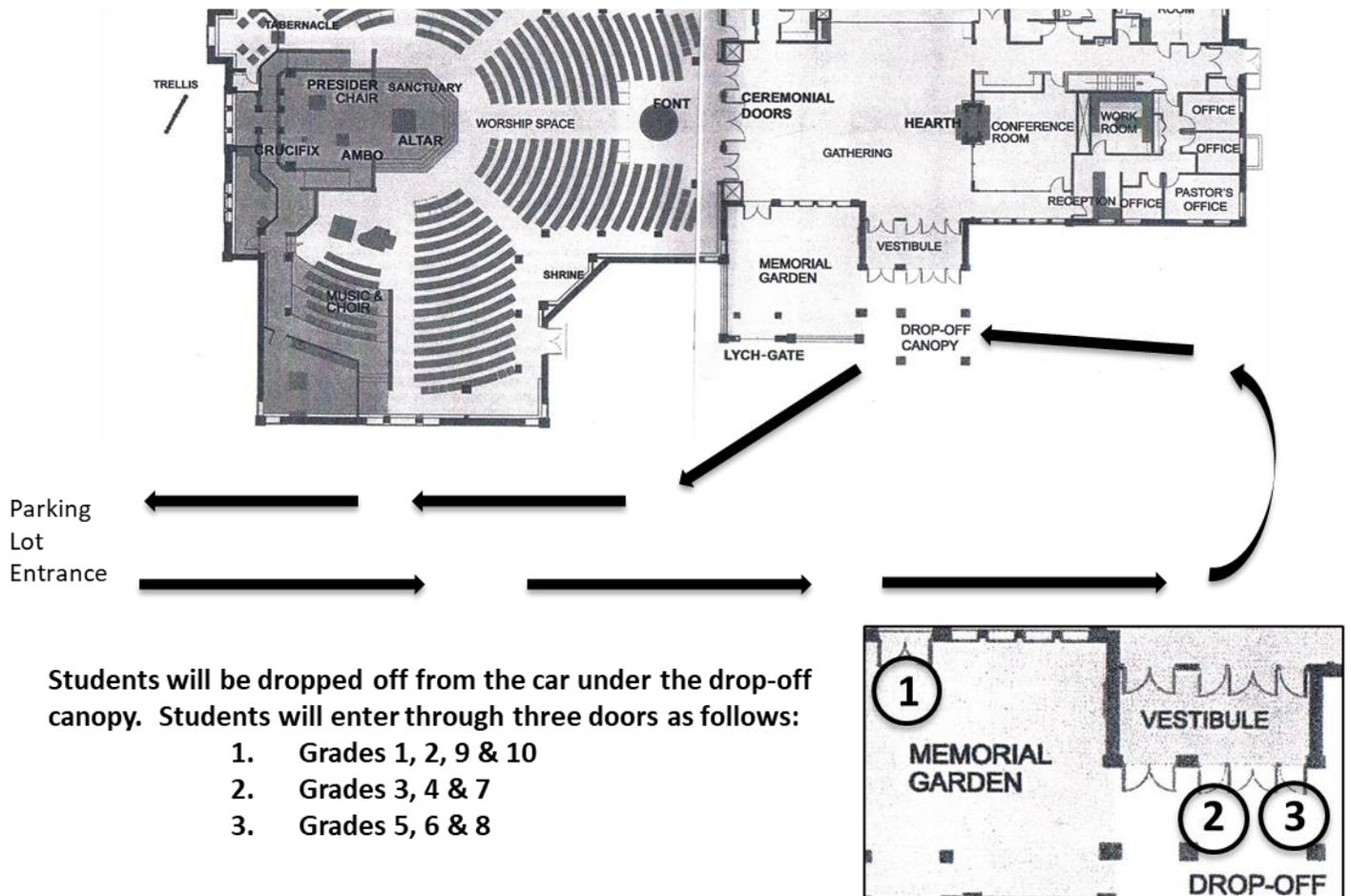
## Symptoms of COVID

The following are symptoms of COVID-19 taken from the CDC website. **Please do not send your child to Religious Education with any of these symptoms:**

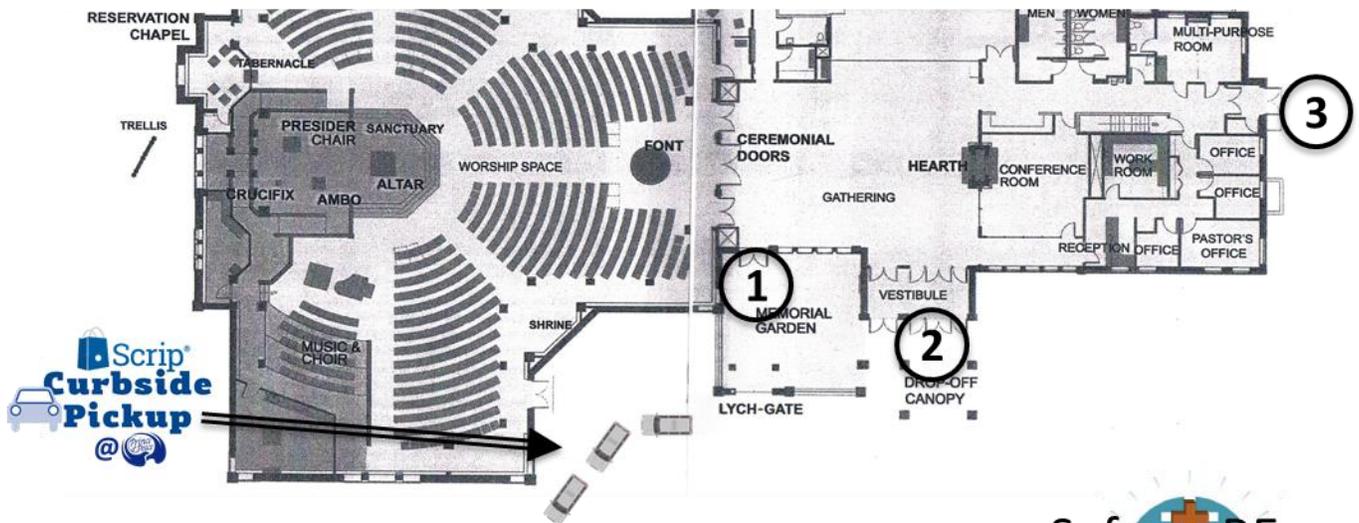
- Fever (100.4 or higher) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your child has seasonal allergies or other medical reasons for exhibiting these symptoms other than being sick, please notify a Religious Education Coordinator. You may be asked to provide a doctor's note.

## RE Arrival/Dropoff Procedure



## RE Dismissal Procedure



## RE at Home: Every Other Week

### What Do I Do?

The folder you received contains everything you need to lead the RE at Home family discussions every other week. Weekly lessons are about the upcoming weekend's Gospel reading. The lessons guide you step by step through how to lead faith conversations with your children and give specific directions for any activities provided.

No need to worry if your children take the discussion in a different direction, or if the lesson doesn't go exactly as laid out. *The most important thing is to start these conversations with your family and let the Holy Spirit guide the rest!*

### What Do My Children Do?

Each of your children will have a folder with age appropriate questions based on each week's Gospel reading. Each child will be able to open their individual folder and answer questions at their age level about the Gospel story you read and discussed as a family.

### Why Do This With My Children?

Studies have shown the more parents are engaged in their children's faith journey, the more likely it is their children will remain practicing Catholics into adulthood. The Catholic Church teaches that parents are to be the primary means by which the faith is passed down to their children. Parents are responsible for passing on the faith and getting their children to heaven.

Let's lead by example this year, and teach our children resiliency in the face of adversity by trusting through the darkness that Jesus is still here, present and willing to guide us if we are open to letting HIM into our hearts.



## Curriculum

Each grade's curriculum will be based on the Diocese of Green Bay standards. The purpose of the program is to grow Disciples of Christ to love and serve others. Each week, students will be using a pocket folder which contains:

- Prayers to be learned (according to the Diocese standards by grade)
- Reflection sheets or handouts with exploring the weekend's Gospel
- Space for prayer intentions & a gratitude log which they can refer to all year

The curriculum will include:

- Reconciliation
- Wednesday evening Ash Wednesday Mass on February 17
- Community involvement through COVID-safe service projects
- Personal Spiritual Growth through reflection
- Family connection/focus through at-home tasks and Liturgical celebrations

## Bibles

We have provided each family with a Bible and a Bible highlighter to use when looking up the Gospel readings for the at home lessons. Although these readings can be found online, we encourage you to take the time to look up the readings in the physical book of the Bible. *We pray this Bible becomes a 'workbook' for your family and God, and doesn't have time to collect dust!* We suggest jotting notes or personal thoughts in the margins, highlighting or ear-marking favorite pages, and putting it in a central location of your home. You never know when the Holy Spirit will direct you to another passage that will touch your heart at any given moment.

## Class Attendance & Participation

Students are expected to attend class on their designated in-person dates. With the hybrid schedule, this results in only 11 in-person opportunities this year.

Student's friends/visitors are not permitted to attend classroom session without prior approval from a Religious Education Coordinator.

Due to COVID-19, students will not be participating in weekend Masses as part of the religious education program. We do encourage you as a family to consider participating in new volunteer opportunities at Mass as a result of COVID-19; for each Mass, we need pre-mass temperature takers and sanitizer spritzers, as well people to wipe down the pews between Masses. Please call the Parish Office at 920-468-5718 if you are interested in helping!

**IF YOUR CHILD/REN CANNOT ATTEND CLASS\*, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.  
468-5718 or email at [re@popgb.org](mailto:re@popgb.org)**

If notification is received (phone call or email) that your child cannot attend class, that will be considered an excused absence. If there is no notification, it will be considered an unexcused absence. Multiple unexcused absences will result in an inquiry regarding the continuation within the program and may result in dismissal from the program and inability to receive sacraments.

## Religious Education Cancellation

When the Green Bay public schools are closed due to inclement weather, our classes will not meet. If the students are in school and the weather turns bad late in the day, an email will be set to notify you of the cancellation. You can also check the TV and website for cancellations.

## Service Requirement (**Waived for 2020-2021**)

One key part of growing Disciples of Christ is serving others in need; while part of our religious program is to require middle and high school students in grades 7 to 10 to serve *beyond the projects within our Religious Education program*.

**However, due to COVID-19, this requirement will be waived for 2020-2021.** Although this is not a requirement, service is still needed. We encourage you to seek ways for your children to serve in our church and the greater community.

## Together in Faith

**Due to COVID-19, there will be no Together in Faith events this year. We look forward to their return next year!**

**Ash Wednesday Mass (Feb. 17):** In place of class, **families are expected** to attend either the 4:15 or 6:30 pm mass. This is a great way to begin the Lenten season!

Also, no classes are scheduled for Holy Week. Without Wednesday class, we hope your family will attend Triduum masses for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Saturday Easter Vigil.

### Cell Phone and Internet Use

Students are expected to silence their cell phones, and keep them out of sight during class. There may be times where students will be asked by their Catechist to conduct research on their cell phone. Students who access the church's internet are to do so in a considerate and responsible manner.

If a catechist sees a student on his or her phone at a time when he or she has not been asked to use it, the catechist or a Religious Education staff member, will confiscate the phone until the end of class, and parents will be notified.

### Tuition/Tuition Assistance

Fees for the 2019-2020 religious education year are as follows:

\$115 for one child

\$190 for two children

\$240 for three or more children

\$150 Out of Parish tuition per child

Additional \$50 sacramental fee for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and Confirmation students

No child shall be denied a Catholic education based solely on the inability to pay tuition and sacramental fees. Payment plans and tuition assistance are available by contacting the parish office.

### Lower Tuition Costs through Scrip

*\*\*New this year: The \$50 deductible for Scrip tuition credit has been eliminated! \*\**

The SCRIP Tuition Reimbursement Program is available to help families offset costs of Religious Education for their children. By purchasing Scrip cards from Prince of Peace, families can earn Scrip credit in the current year toward tuition costs for the next year. Scrip profits for families are calculated annually from April 1 to March 31.

- **\*\*NEW\*\*The \$50 deductible has been eliminated from the program. Earn tuition credit for next year on your first dollar spent!**
- Tuition Credit is 50% of the Scrip rebate percentage for every purchase. The remaining 50% of the rebate goes to the parish.
- **Scrip is available** for purchase M/W/F from 8:30am - Noon in the Parish Office or **Wednesday evenings 5:00 - 7:00pm.**
- Online scrip orders must be received by Noon on Wednesday for pickup on Friday morning or after the Weekend Masses. (Online orders are subject to availability.)

- **Tuition Credit must be indicated on the Scrip Order Form** and the information completed.
- Scrip purchases may be made using cash or check.
- Tuition Credit will be applied exclusively to those Scrip purchases made by a family member (parents, grandparents, etc.) for the benefit of the student to receive tuition credit. Tuition Credit will not be applied to Scrip purchases by any business.
- Tuition Credits earned will be applied to the tuition in the following year. In the final year of the Religious Education program, Scrip Credits earned will remain at the Parish.
- Tuition Credits earned, or the total tuition owed for RE students in the family will not be refunded, but carried forward to future years or transferred to other families for the current or future years.
- Tuition Credit will not be applied to Scrip purchases if all tuition and fees applicable to the previous RE year are not paid in full.
- Financial reporting for the Scrip program will be incorporated into the parish accounting system. As such, the Finance Council will receive monthly information regarding scrip transactions.
- The Scrip program and the Scrip Tuition Reimbursement program are provided and administered in compliance with the Parish Constitution and Diocesan Scrip Program Guidelines, with over-sight provided by the Finance Council.

It's easy to earn nearly \$40 toward next year's RE tuition in just two months by using Scrip cards for regular purchases—and that's before you start your Christmas shopping. Here's how:

<b>October</b>	Scrip Card		Scrip	Scrip
	Amount	Vendor	Percent	Credit
Gas	\$ 200	Shell*	10.0%	\$ 20.00
Groceries	200	Woodman's	5.0%	10.00
Summer's End Ice Crean	25	Culvers	6.0%	1.50
Aunt Bea's Bday Gift	50	Bath & Body Work	12.0%	6.00
Opie's Toe Infection Rx	25	Walgreens	5.0%	1.25
		October Scrip Rebate		\$ 38.75
		Church Portion (50%)		19.38
		<b>Tuition Credit Portion (50%)</b>		<b>\$ 19.38</b>
<b>November</b>				
Gas	\$ 200	Shell*	10.0%	\$ 20.00
Groceries	200	Woodman's	5.0%	10.00
Replace Broken Toilet	150	Home Depot	4.0%	6.00
Take Out	50	Mackinaws	10.0%	5.00
		November Scrip Rebate		\$ 41.00
		Church Portion (50%)		20.50
		<b>Tuition Credit Portion (50%)</b>		<b>\$ 20.50</b>
<b>Total tuition credit for 2021/2022 RE earned in 2 months</b>				<b>\$ 39.88</b>

\*Shell is Grand Central Station Scrip cards which are for area Shell stations.

### Wednesday Night Scrip Curbside Pickup

If you wish to order Scrip on Wednesday nights this year, please send your order form into church with one of your children **at the beginning of class**. There will be a basket for order forms right inside each door and orders will be filled during class time. When you return to pick up your children, please pull up alongside the flagpole past the main doors (see map on page 3) and wait for someone to bring your order to your car.

### Discipline

Respect for the church staff, volunteer catechists, and other students is the expectation. However, if students make poor choices, redirection to correct their behavior will help them to grow as a more faithful member of the church community. Most poor choices can be redirected via a verbal warning from the catechist.

However, if further behavior instruction is needed, a plan will be formed with a Religious Education Coordinator and/or Deacon Jeff. Parents may be called and asked to pick up their child for severe cases.

### Drugs/Alcohol

Any child in possession of drug(s)/tobacco/tobacco-like products/alcohol/weapons of any kind will result in a parent phone call and meeting that night. Police will also be involved. Prince of Peace has a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for this behavior.

If your child takes medication for behavior management, please keep in mind that the volunteer catechists have limited strategies; at times, parental help may be needed for redirection.

### Dress Code and Conduct

As a sign of respect to Jesus in the tabernacle, please **remove all hats** upon entering the building.

Clothing (including face masks) advertising alcohol, drugs, political statement, or anything else in conflict with Catholic teachings are not allowed to be worn to RE class. Short shorts and short shirts (bare stomachs), spaghetti straps, and open armed tank tops are not allowed to be worn to RE class.

Drinks, food, candy, and gum should be consumed before arriving to class. At times, students will be in the church for class. Because the home of Jesus is sacred, these items are not appropriate. **Because of COVID-19, Catechists will not be handing out food/candy of any kind during class this year.**

### Protecting God's Children/Safe Environment

Every church in the diocese must have one class session devoted to Protecting God's Children. Each grade has an age appropriate lessons that will be taught on your child(ren)'s first RE class on either October 7 or 14 for grades 1 to 6, and on either January 6 or January 20 for grades 7 to 10.

An opt out form is available on the Religious Education page of the website if you choose not to have your child attend.

Family's last name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*Copy to stay in Handbook\*\*\*\*

## Prince of Peace Covenant

In signing this covenant, our family understands student behavior reflects the value of living out our Catholic faith and helping students and others to grow as Christians. Our family agrees to follow the rules and guidelines set by the Prince of Peace Religious Education program.

Behaviors that show we are Christians and promote a positive classroom environment:

- ✓ Respecting classmates and adults through attentive listening, valuing others' opinions, keeping hands to self, wearing appropriate clothing to class, and expressing kind words.
- ✓ Participation in class and special events each week through attendance, contributing to class discussions, and maintaining a positive attitude.
- ✓ Keeping focused during class, especially by storing cell phone in pocket.
- ✓ Knowing that drugs, alcohol, tobacco, tobacco-like products such as e-cigarettes, or any type of weapons are not allowed in the building or on the property. The police will be contacted, should a student be found in possession of any of these items.
- ✓ Respecting the sacredness of the church by entering quietly and walking.

Respect for the church staff, volunteer catechists, and other students is the expectation. However, if students make poor choices, redirection to correct their behavior will help them to grow as a more faithful member of the church community.

Most poor choices can be redirected via a verbal warning from the catechist.

However, if further behavior instruction is needed, a plan will be formed with a religious education coordinator and/or Deacon Jeff. Parents may be called and asked to pick up their child for severe cases.

Note: Further explanations of the Covenant can be found in the 2020-2021 Religious Education Family Handbook.

I understand that if my child(ren)/dependents or immediate family members exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 outlined in the Family Handbook, I will refrain from sending them to class. I, as the parent/guardian, am freely choosing to allow my child(ren)/dependents to attend classes, knowing the health risks present with the current environment and will hold harmless the parish, its officers, directors, employees and agents, the Diocese of Green, its employees and agents, catechists and others associated with RE classes, from any COVID-19 related claim arising from or in connection with my child/dependent attending RE classes.

I understand that the purpose of this covenant is to allow for a safe, positive learning experience to grow deeper in faith. By signing this covenant, I agree to talk to my child(ren)/dependents, and as a family, respect and uphold the rules and conditions set forth by the Religious Education staff and Prince of Peace

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Family's last name: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*Copy to turn in to RE Staff\*\*\*\***

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