

*Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Parish
Pendleton and Clarence Center, New York
One God...One Parish...One Heart...Two Worship Sites
5442 Tonawanda Creek Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716)625-8594*



August 21, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We have been working hard to assure that your children will be safe as they return to our Religious Education and Faith Formation program in September 2020.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the COVID-19 Health and Safety and Operational Logistics for Good Shepherd parish. We were fortunate to have a wonderful and professional committee that reviewed our health issues for re-opening our Religious Education program. Their names are indicated on page two of the document.

The Catechists (teachers) and volunteers met on Thursday, August 20th to discuss the practical aspects of our program. We decided that Grades 1,2, 3, 4 and 5 will meet every other Sunday. As well as Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 will meet on the following Sunday. Enclosed is a schedule for your convenience. Times will remain the same. This approach will limit the amount of students and parents in the building.

The Catechists will assign students homework to bring back on the next time they will be in the classroom. It is our hope that you will work with your child/children when they are not in the classroom.

All adults and students **must wear a mask at all times** when they are in the building/classroom. This is non-negotiable and it is for everyone's safety.

Enclosed you will find a standard questionnaire from the CDC to be filled out and signed each time you drop off your child. Additional copies will be available in the parish hall.

If you have not registered your child we have enclosed a registration form for you to fill out and return at your earliest convenience. If any household cannot manage the fee for the program, please contact Fr. Dan.

Be assured that we take the safety and well-being of your child/children very seriously. You are in our prayers and thoughts during these challenging times!

If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact either one of us!

Good Shepherd Parish Pendleton: Religious Education 2020-2021

SEPTEMBER		Hours		FEBRUARY	
		1.30	7	Class Grades 1-5	1.30
20	Class – Grades 1-5	1.30	28	Class Grades 6-10	1.30
27	Class – Grades 6-10	1.30			
OCTOBER				MARCH	
4	Class – Grades 1-5	1.30			1.30
18	Class Grades 6-10 & 10 th Grade Parents' Meeting	1.30	14	Class Grades 1-5 & 1 st . Reconciliation Retreat & Rehearsal	1.30
			15	Mon, Lenten Penance Service 7:00pm Pendleton	1.0
			21	Class – Grades 6-10	1.30
NOVEMBER				APRIL	
1	Class – Grades 1-5	1.30	11	Class – Grades 1-5 & 1st Communion Retreat & Rehearsal	1.30
7	Saturday - Mandatory Retreat (9 th &10 th Graders) TBA	N/A	17	Saturday 1 st Reconciliation 10.00AM Pendleton Site -TBA	n/a
8	Class Grades 6- 10	1.30	18	Class - Grades 6-10	
15	Class Grades 1-5	1.30	25	Last Day of Class - Grades 1-5 & 1 st Communion Rehearsal	1.30
DECEMBER				MAY	
6	Class Grades 6-10 & (10 th Grade Commitment Mass)	1.30	1	Saturday – 10: 00AM 1 st Communion TBA	n/a
13	Class – Grades 1-5	1.30			n/a
20	Class Grades 6-10	1.30	14	Confirmation Rehearsal & Dinner TBA	n/a
21	Mon. Advent Penance Service (7pm Pendleton Site)	1.0	23	Confirmation 3pm at St. Joseph Cathedral	n/a
JANUARY					
10	Class - Grade 1-5 & 1st Reconciliation Parents' Meeting	1.30			
17	Class – Grades 6-10	1.30			
24	Class – Grades 1-5 & 1 st Comm. Parents' Meeting	1.30			
31	Class Grades 6-10	1.30			

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY & OPERATIONAL LOGISTICS



Religious Education and Faith Formation

Our reopening plan has at its core a commitment to doing so safely. These are challenging times, and we need all of our community members' cooperation to mitigate the risks presented by COVID-19. Informed by the CDC guidelines and New York State recommendations and mandates, Good Shepherd Church has implemented practices and procedures to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

Basic Hygiene and Health & Safety Practices:

Basic Hygiene and Safety Practices have proven effective in fighting the spread of the virus throughout the pandemic. These procedures need to be practiced both in and out of Religious Education classes to be effective. We seek your partnership and cooperation in reinforcing these well-established practices at home while we do the same here at Good Shepherd.

Social Distancing means staying at least 6-feet apart. Distance between people helps to limit the spread of the virus from person to person. Hand Hygiene includes washing your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. When soap and water is not available, hand sanitizer can be substituted.

Appropriate Masks or face coverings must be worn at all times outside of school, especially when social distancing cannot be maintained. To be effective, the mask must cover the mouth and nose.

Signage will be prominently displayed throughout the building to remind students of basic hygiene, health and safety practices.

Health Protocols

Health Screening will be conducted each Sunday.

- Catechists, staff and students will be checked.
- Visitors/parents to the building will be significantly limited, and all visitors will be checked at point of entry into the school building.

Health Screening will include:

- a temperature check with a temporal thermometer (no physical contact)
- A questionnaire form will be sent to parents to sign:
- Has your child tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Has your child come in close contact in the past 14 days with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 or who has symptoms of COVID-19?
- Has your child had any symptoms of COVID-19: including a temperature greater than 100°F, a cough or shortness of breath in the last 14 days?
- Has your child traveled internationally or come from a state with widespread COVID-19 community transmission as defined by the governor's NYS Travel Advisory in the past 14 days?

**Parents will be required to sign off on this form every week.*

Symptomatic Individuals

Individuals exhibiting or reporting any of the following symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19 will not be permitted in the building: a fever over 100°F, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue or body aches, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache or decreased ability to taste or smell. Additionally, students otherwise not feeling well should be kept home to allow time for the student to feel better and to help keep other students, catechist, and staff from becoming ill. Students should return to Religious Education Classes only after being asymptomatic without medication for at least 48 hours. If you have questions regarding this plan please call the Parish Office at 716-625-8594.

COVID-19 Health Committee

We have formed a committee to implement the best possible plan for re-opening. The committee consists of the following individuals:

- Sr. Grace Dike, SCGR, Director of Religious Education
- Dr. Brian Karaszewski, physician, parishioner, trustee and parent
- Gregory Todaro, Catechist, parishioner and parent
- Meg Wilbur, RN, Infectious Disease, parishioner
- Rev. Daniel Young, Pastor

Procedures if COVID-19 Exposure is Suspected or Confirmed

If anyone has been suspected or is confirmed to have COVID-19, the person must contact Fr. Dan or Sr. Grace. We will work with and follow the guidance of the Erie County Department of Health. Such guidance may include a possible temporary closure of the building or other measures.

Individual Return to Classes Following Positive COVID-19 Test

In the event an individual tests positive for COVID-19, we will work closely with the Erie County Department of Health regarding an individual's return to Religious Education classes. Minimally, we will require documentation from a health care provider releasing the person from isolation and a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result before returning.

Catechist and Staff Training and Communication

All Catechists will receive training on new health and safety protocols and procedures as well as how to recognize COVID-19 symptoms. Catechists and staff will also be trained on cleaning procedures.

Student Training and Communication

Students will receive training on new health and safety protocols as well as basic hygiene and health and wellness procedures. (Social distancing, hand hygiene and appropriate mask use). Students will also be trained on desk cleaning procedures.

Parents/Guardians Communication

Good Shepherd will utilize Parent Reminder emails and/or phone calls to keep parents/guardians informed regarding all policies and procedures in this Reopening Plan.

Water Fountains

Water fountain use **will not be permitted**. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle.

Restroom Use

In order to promote social distancing in the restrooms, every other toilet and sink will be closed off.

Cleaning & Sanitizing Guidelines

The CDC has provided guidelines for schools relating to regular cleaning and disinfecting spaces. Good Shepherd's protocols comply with these guidelines. EPA approved disinfectants will be used, and logs will be maintained. In addition to daily cleaning and disinfecting as recommended, Good Shepherd will perform routine cleaning on high contact surfaces and spaces

before classes including light switches, door handles, railings, and restrooms.

Desks and seats will be wiped down after they are used by students. School-issued supplies will be used. Disinfectant wipes, solution and hand sanitizer will continue to be available in each classroom.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE FORM FOR PARENTS



Besides the health screening that will take place every Sunday, Good Shepherd Church has developed a questionnaire to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

Parents are required to complete a questionnaire that will be signed and submitted to the Religious Education office every Sunday that their child attends Religious education.

- Has your child tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Has your child come in close contact in the past 14 days with anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 or who has symptoms of COVID-19?
- Have you experienced any new gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite in the last few days?
- Has your child had any symptoms of COVID-19: including a temperature greater than 100°F, a cough, muscle aches, sore throat, runny nose or shortness of breath in the last 14 days?
- Have you been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or a local public health official in the last two weeks?
- Has your child traveled internationally or come from a state with widespread COVID-19 community transmission as defined by the governor's NYS Travel Advisory in the past 14 days?

Parent's Signature _____

*Parents are required to sign off on this form every week.