

# ReOpening Information for Parents

FROM THE DIOCESAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE



*The Religious Education Office, in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control, the Rockford Diocesan Chancery Office, and the Catholic Education Office, has worked diligently to develop a religious education and faith formation reopening plan. Our plan allows students and families to return to parish programs in a manner that reduces risk while fostering our relationship with Christ.*

*As your family returns to religious education and faith formation programs, they will notice several program and environmental modifications. This plan will be updated based upon the guidance from local, state, and federal health authorities. Parish Catechetical Leaders will share updated information with parents as it becomes available.*

## Stay at home.

If you have a temperature or are feeling ill, stay home! Known symptoms include: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea



## Mass & Other Large Gatherings

Program-related Masses will follow the established protocols of "Back in His Presence." These protocols are currently being used for Sunday liturgies. Non-liturgical gatherings are limited to no more than 50 individuals per state guidelines.

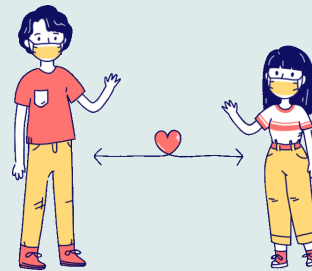


## Cleaning & Disinfecting

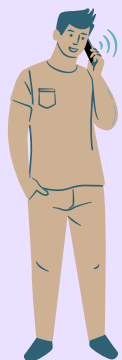
Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols have been established. High touch surfaces will be disinfected throughout the program area. Hand sanitizer will be available for use. Parishes will not provide communal snacks or refreshments.



## Strategic Social Distancing



Students, Catechists, and parents will practice safe social distancing and wear masks. Seating will be arranged to maximize social distancing. New foot traffic patterns will be established and clearly marked.



## In-Parish & Virtual Formation

We look forward to the return of in-parish formation, but also recognize that virtual formation and hybrid programs incorporating both methods may be the best option for a parish. Parishes will have flexibility to adapt to the changing situation. Thank you for understanding.

## Take courage!

Despite the frustration and difficulties these required changes may cause, we know that "all things work for good for those who love God" (Rom 8:28). There is nothing more worthwhile than sharing God's love with our children.

