

Dear Assumption BVM PREP Families,

May you continue to find God's blessings in the midst of these challenging days! Know that Monsignor Klinger, our deacons and our parish staff continue to pray for you and look forward in hope to better times.

With prayerful and practical consideration for the safety and well-being of everyone in body, mind and spirit as our priority, we still endeavor to, as St. Paul urged Timothy, *"to proclaim the message; be persistent, whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching (2 Tim 4: 1a, 2)."* These are not the most favorable of times, and so, considering the Diocese of Allentown and Pennsylvania's protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, we trust that God has led us in developing the following plan for Assumption BVM's 2020-2021 Parish Religious Education Program:

Assumption BVM PREP Pandemic Plan, 2020-2021

What are we doing & why? As always, we endeavor to assist Assumption BVM's parents of children in grades 1 – 8 in fulfilling their vocation of forming children in the Catholic faith and nurturing their relationship with the Holy Trinity and the Catholic Church.

Who will be catechizing? When and Where?

Parents: all the time and everywhere (of course!); in a formal way in conjunction with catechists during weeks when their child/children's PREP groups are not meeting at ABVM

Catechists will meet with children:

- + **in person** either on Sundays, 8:30 – 9:30 or Wednesdays, 4:30 – 5:30 once a month (Two groups each week, exact schedule TBA)
- + **remotely**, weeks when they do not meet with their groups, (& remotely by special request for all sessions for parents choosing to remain at home while pandemic lasts)

How? In the family setting, we encourage parents /children to:

- + Attend Mass weekly, either in person or remotely (always the essential in practicing our Catholic faith)
- + Complete weekly activities with & assigned by catechist (60 min. per week)
- + Complete monthly packet activities to be submitted each month(10 min. per week)
- + View the weekly Powerpoint sent by DRE (5 minutes per week)

With the parish (both at ABVM and remotely):

- + Attend introductory session and monthly gatherings (in person or remotely)
- + Connect with child's catechist & group online during regular PREP time the other weeks

Other significant details:

- + *All involved must wear masks.*
- + *When weather permits, we will meet outdoors.*
- + *PREP indoor spaces will be sanitized before/after sessions if used.*
- + *Pastor and DRE will revisit the plan as circumstances require it.*

If you wish to participate in Assumption PREP this season, please complete the registration form and submit it at your earliest convenience. PREP fees can be submitted with the form, or by September 15, 2020.

Thank you for your patience with us as we made these plans. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.

Grace and peace,
Christina Durback
Director of Religious Education, Assumption Parish