



## Saints John and Paul Parish School of Religion

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June 28, 2021

Dear Friends:

As you may know, we are welcoming a new pastor next week, Fr. John Bonnici. Fr. John will be within us in July. He will also be the pastor of St. Augustine's in Larchmont. We are also welcoming a new Parochial Vicar Fr. Louis Masi. I have met both of these fine priests and I know everyone will be delighted to meet them.

Thank you for your wonderful cooperation this past school year. We are one of the very few Religious Education programs in the area that have blended in-person classes and homeschooling options. We have always had a homeschooling option, but it really paid off this past year. One of the benefits of our program is the flexibility of being able to do both. For example, when a student cannot come to class, for whatever reason, he or she can easily do the lesson of the week at home. In addition, the Weekly Scripture Lesson is emailed to all families in the program each Friday for parents to read with their children.

All will continue in the coming School Year with some new additions and also resumptions of service projects we had to stop because of Covid.

**Classes:** Tentatively, we will follow the same schedule as we did this past year. The only changes will be the possible addition of a fifth grade class on Sundays. Also, the evening middle school classes will go back to Wednesdays from Tuesdays.

**Classrooms:** A big change is that we are planning to locate all classes in the Nazareth House Parish Center (convent). Several rooms on the second floor will become classrooms. This will give us a total of five rooms in the building for Religious Education. All rooms will have Smart Boards and all other necessary equipment. We will no longer need to use the school for Religious Education.

**Opening Prayers:** As you are aware, we all meet in the church at the beginning of each session. We go over the Scriptures for the coming Sunday, and give the



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students a brief explanation. And then we pray together. Starting this year, these meetings will be live streamed and thus homeschooling children can participate and feel more connected to their classmates.

**The Weekly Scripture Lesson** is emailed to all families in the program each Friday for parents to read with their children.

**Service:** We will continue to have a strong focus on service to those who need our help. Once per month, each grade will have an opportunity to do something during class to help those in need of our support.

**Class schedules:** For now, the students will be placed on the same day and time as this past year. However, once registration is complete we will be better able to assign classes to times and rooms.

- Note: Middle School classes that were held on Tuesdays this past year will be placed back on Wednesday evenings.