

**Office of Religious Education/Confirmation Program**  
**Our Lady of Good Counsel**  
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August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First, thank you for being a part of our family here at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Second, I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your kindness and warm welcome these past few weeks. It's truly a blessing to be back here at Our Lady of Good Counsel. I would also like to thank you for your patience as we have been working on plans for how classes will look for the fall. We have been working with our rental and consulting with the Archdiocese to find the best way to move forward.

Every year we look at the great Emmaus story (Luke 24:13-35), of the disciples meeting Jesus on the road, and their inability to recognize him. And, as you know, it was through **His recounting of the Scriptures and His breaking of the bread with them that their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus.** Like those disciples, we need to continue on our own faith journey and keep our eyes open to the wonders of God.

With that being said, we now are ready to provide you with details for our two options for Pre-K-Grade 8 classes for the fall. Throughout the summer, we have seen the cases increase throughout the country related to COVID-19 and the health and well-being of your children is paramount to anything else. As a father myself, I understand and appreciate the need to consider this in our planning.

We will be offering two options for classes this fall. **Option one is for in-classroom teaching** on either Sunday mornings, Tuesday afternoon or Tuesday evenings. This is based on if we have the volunteers to teach the classes. As per out state, the children and adults will have to wear masks and we will have a 3ft distance between the children. These are the guidelines of the district and state.

**The class times have changed due to the change in mass times.**

**Sunday classes will now be 9:30-10:45am (Grades Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup>)**

**Tuesday afternoon, 4:15 – 5:30PM (Grades Kind. Through 6<sup>th</sup>)**

**Tuesday evening, 7:15- 8:30PM (Grades 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)**

**I can not stress enough the need for we have for volunteers to return to in-classroom teaching. We currently teachers for the following grades: Sunday: Grade 2 & 5 and Tuesday: Grade 2, 4, & 5. Some of the perks of teaching includes having your registration fee waved, helping your child grow in their faith, and of course you as well.**

**Option two** is to offer our at-home program for those who are uncomfortable sending their children to in-person. This would not involve Zoom teaching, but rather what was previously offered which includes access to the at-home parent guides and the submission of the interactive chapter reviews weekly from our publisher's website. More information will be disclosed at our virtual meeting on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> & Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Please know that with the world ever changing, Religious Education is ever changing as well. This means that our plans our **SUBJECT TO CHANGE** based on how the schools, local board of health, state, and Archdiocese dictate how things progress with

our current situation. I ask that you please understand this and that I am doing everything I can to keep us in-person, if that is what you wish. I personally know the difficulties many experienced with virtual teaching, and I hope to avoid it if possible.

Thank you again for all you have done to help your children grow in their faith and understanding of the love of God. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about anything, I am available for you and your children.

Thank You and God Bless You,

Matthew DeCaux  
Coordinator of Religious Education