

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAM
27 KRESSON-GIBBSBORO ROAD,
GIBBSBORO, NJ 08026
(856) 783-0550

July 5, 2021

Dear Families,

Everyone is so through with the pandemic, but the pandemic is not through with us. I trust that you have had the good sense to get vaccinated to protect yourself and your loved ones. However, the children are not all vaccinated and the new Delta Strain of COVID seems to be threatening younger people. Consequently, we will keep the COVID precautions in place to protect your children and will continue to offer remote instruction if desired.

Especially during stressful times it is important to stay connected to our community and our Church. Our programs will ensure that you and your children maintain this essential connection. We are continuing the method of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based religious formation for children. This method seeks to create and facilitate a sacred prayer space for children in which the children and their catechists, along with parents, can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Christian faith as revealed in the Scriptures and the Liturgy. In order to maintain a sanitized area, the program has been modified to eliminate items for the children to touch and examine. Instead, we will provide pictures and videos to reinforce the lesson.

The program is offering three models this year. The first is a modified **classroom model for grades 1-7** with no more than ten children to a class and 6 ft. spacing between the children. Following CDC guidelines masks will be required to be worn during class. Class time will be the usual 55 minutes. At dismissal classes will be sequentially brought to the side exit to be picked up by parents or family members.

The second program model is a predominantly online class for Grades 1-8, utilizing both live and pre-recorded sessions. These sessions will be approximately 60 minutes including reinforcement exercises. To avoid the serious disadvantage of creating an isolated learning environment, once a month students and families will be required to attend an activity and/or discussion at St. Andrew's. **Note: All 8th Grade classes will follow this model.**

Last year we experimented with a Homeschool model in which the parents taught their children under the guidance of the Catechetical Office. This was so successful for the parents who were willing to take the time and effort to teach their children that we have decided to offer it again this year. However, this will be restricted to parents who can find the time and will commit to apply the effort to actively teach their children. Each month we will meet with the parents in this program. We will go over each lesson for that upcoming month and show them how to teach. We will also be available every day to answer questions and help with instruction. Please see the Homeschool section for further information.

Religious Education will not be denied to any child. The registration fee for the year has been kept to \$135.00 per child, but **this year we are capping the tuition at \$300 for families of 3 or more children.** **Note: Although you must register, there will be no registration fee for 9th grade; \$20 is requested to cover the cost of the Confirmation gown.** If your family is having a genuine financial difficulty, please email Msgr. Marucci at MsgrMarucci@ChurchofSaintAndrews.org and he will contact the Religious Formation Office concerning payment options.

Our normal means of communicating with you throughout the year will be e-mail. Please make sure the office has your latest e-mail address. Ours is StAndrewRelForm@churchofstandrews.org; or you can find us on Facebook at [St. Andrew the Apostle Rel Ed - Gibbsboro / Voorhees](#).

It has been a great joy for us to serve you and your families over the past years. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to share them with us.

Peace of Christ,

Jim Hemschoot

Lifelong Faith Formation

Modified Classroom Model

- Classes will be by grade from 1 to 7 with a maximum of 10 children per class. Tables will be used, with chairs spaced 6 ft apart. If necessary, a second session will be added
- All classrooms will be used as needed.
- Class times will be each Monday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm including a staggered dismissal. Children are asked to arrive 10 minutes prior to class.
- Each arriving child will be met at the side door for temperature screening and hand sanitizer. Parents are asked to wait until successful screening. Any child with a temperature over 100.4 will be sent home.
- Each arriving child will be directed to the appropriate classroom. Social distancing will be observed.
- Masks are required for the entire time inside the building.
- Chairs will be situated in each classroom at least 6 ft apart. There will be one teacher's desk in the front of the room.
- Each child will be issued a school kit containing crayons, pencils, a glue stick and scissors. This kit is to be brought home and back to class each week.
- At dismissal each teacher will sequentially escort their class out the side exit where they will be met by a parent or guardian. Dismissal will be controlled and staggered to avoid congestion. Social distancing will be observed.
- All CDC and Diocesan Guidelines will be followed.

Online Remote Learning

- Classes will be taught by Grade Level. Each class will be 60 minutes.
 - Grades 1 to 7 will meet on Zoom from 5:00pm to 6:00pm each Tuesday
 - Grade 8 will meet on Zoom from 5:00pm to 6:00pm each Wednesday
- The free program Zoom will be used for attendance, and live instruction. Off-line assignments, and progress assessments will use the free program KAHOOT.
- Instruction will be a combination of live and prerecorded classes. The schedule for live and prerecorded classes will be adjusted as time goes on to accommodate the maximum number of students.
- Live classes will be interactive at fixed times with a summary discussion at the end. After the class each student will be required to take the KAHOOT challenge to score their understanding. A student may take the challenge multiple times until they are satisfied with their score.
- To avoid the serious disadvantage of creating an isolated learning environment, once a month students and families will be required to attend an activity and/or Mass at St. Andrew's following CDC and Diocesan Guidelines. The schedule of activities will be posted as the year goes on.

On-Site Classroom Model Registration Grades 1 to 7

Family Name: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Emergency : _____

Gatherings will be held weekly on Monday

Weekly Mondays 5:00 PM to 5:55 PM (Grades 1 to 7)

CHILD'S NAME	GRADE	DATE OF BIRTH
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please arrive 10 minutes early for screening and check-in

Baptized at: _____ Church on _____
(Name of Church/Location) (Date)

Note: If you have not already provided it in a previous year, Please include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate when you register.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration Fee _____ Paid _____ Cash _____ Check# _____ Balance _____

Baptismal certificate _____ Baptized at St. Andrews _____

Online Learning Model Grades K to 7 Registration

Family Name: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Emergency : _____

Classes will be held weekly on Tuesday

Weekly Tuesdays 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM (Grades K to 7)

CHILD'S NAME	GRADE	DATE OF BIRTH
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_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____
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**Once a Month from November to April, we will gather for an event at St. Andrew's
Check the Schedule for Day and Time**

Baptized at: _____ Church on _____
(Name of Church/Location) (Date)

**Note: If you have not already provided it in a previous year, Please include a copy of your child's
Baptismal Certificate when you register.**

OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration Fee _____ Paid _____ Cash _____ Check# _____ Balance _____

Baptismal certificate _____ Baptized at St. Andrews _____

8th Grade Online Learning Model Registration

Family Name: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Emergency : _____

Weekly Wednesday 5:00 PM to 6:10 PM (or at a time agreed to by all)

CHILD'S NAME	GRADE	DATE OF BIRTH
_____	8	_____
_____	8	_____
_____	8	_____

Once a Month from November to April, we will gather for an event at St. Andrew's

Check the Calendar for Day and Time

All Eighth Grade students will also be required to develop a Service Plan to last the entire year. Assistance with this plan will be available.

Baptized at: _____ Church on _____
(Name of Church/Location) (Date)

Note: If you have not already provided it in a previous year, Please include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate when you register.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration Fee _____ Paid _____ Cash _____ Check# _____ Balance _____

Baptismal certificate _____ Baptized at St. Andrews _____

GRADE 9 - CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Family Name: _____ Parent/Guardian: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Town _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Emergency : _____

Student Name: _____ Height _____ Weight _____

Registration is free. \$20 GOWN FEE ONLY*

* _ Gown Fee is Waived if you already have the same gown from an earlier Confirmation

_____ Already Have a Gown

Baptized at: _____ Church on _____
(Name of Church/Location) (Date)

Note: If you have not already provided it in a previous year, Please include a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate when you register.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration Fee _____ Paid _____ Cash _____ Check# _____ Balance _____

Baptismal certificate _____ Baptized at St. Andrews _____

Attendance Policy For On-Site and Online Classes

Please call the office when your child must miss class due to illness or with other difficulties. We will try our best to accommodate a “make-up” session in a timely fashion. **Only two excused absences per year will be considered within the acceptable limit.** The missed work should be completed to the catechist’s satisfaction.

Two late arrivals or early dismissals will count as one absence.

It is presumed that all children will be on their best behavior and will respect the teachers and the rights of other children to be able to learn and be treated with respect. If a child makes it difficult for others to learn, a parent will be asked to attend class with that child to make sure the learning environment is preserved for all.

I have read and understood the above policy and wish my child to take part in the Religious Formation Program at St. Andrew’s Parish. If there are extenuating circumstances I will call the office.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please indicate any situations that may need special consideration during the year such as allergies, learning needs etc.

Child’s name: _____

Needs: _____