



## DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

### ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FOR FAITH FORMATION 2020-2021

As we are all used to hearing by now, these are unusual times. As such, the delivery of faith formation programs for this year will look different than other years. These guidelines have been developed to help families of the Diocese of Fall River understand the scenarios under which faith formation might operate, depending on the individual parish response to COVID-19 public health guidelines. Flexibility will be key as conditions may change. We know this has been a stressful time for all families, and we pray that our gatherings as a faith community will bring comfort as we seek to make disciples.

All faith formation interactions, whether in-person or virtual must adhere to the Diocesan Code of Conduct.

#### **In-Person Gatherings:**

- Any in-person gatherings must be in compliance with State of Massachusetts Reopening Requirements.
- If your parish is offering in-person programming, please work with your children on following public health guidelines such as mask wearing and distancing requirements.

#### **Virtual Ministry:**

Virtual ministry presents unique challenges. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive but to cover some important points regarding participation in this type of programming.

- Parishes may use a variety of platforms to deliver remote content. Your parish will provide the specific information regarding the mode of instruction being utilized.
- Live sessions offered via platforms such as Zoom will adhere to all Safe Environment guidelines and parents/guardians will be notified of the schedule for any live sessions.
- Links to live sessions should not be shared, except by catechists/leaders to their enrolled students.
- Parents are asked to assist with ensuring their faith formation students participating in live sessions are doing so in an appropriate setting with minimal distractions from the household.
- Faith formation students should dress for virtual participation in the same way they would for in-person gatherings.
- Live sessions may be recorded by catechists/leaders both for security purposes, and for later viewing by those unable to attend live sessions. Access to recordings will be managed by the faith formation staff and not publicly posted.
- Screenshots of sessions may not be taken.
- Especially for younger children, it is important that a parent or caregiver be nearby during live sessions to assist and monitor if needed.