

# SMRE (Sunday Morning Religious Education) and COVID-19 Safe Protocols 8/18/20

*Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. – Romans 12:11-12*

August 18, 2020

Dear Catholic SMRE Parent,

Thank you for registering your child for religious education classes. You do so because you believe that the fundamental task of catechesis is to form disciples of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship is something that we must all learn, internalize, accept and live on a daily basis. Of course, the first place your child learns to live as a Christ's disciple is in your home. What our catechists in the SMRE program strive to do is teach the liberating truths of our Catholic faith, and encourage your child to live and love as an authentic disciple in a world.

However, during these challenging COVID-19 times, religious education programs must provide practical protections that address the seriousness of the pandemic. Know that our catechists and maintenance staff will strive to create the kind of environment that will reduce the risk of COVID spread. To that end, we also need the full cooperation of the SMRE parents and children.

Below are some of the ways we hope to protect your children and our catechists during this pandemic.

Sister Diane Carollo, S.G. L.  
Director of Religious Education

## General Precautions

- Catechists and children will not report to, or be allowed to remain at, the parish if sick or symptomatic (with fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell).
- Prior to the start of each religious education session, temperatures will be taken as a precaution.
- The temperature taking is non-touch.

- Children will be dropped off at the **Welcome Center**. Parents and non-essential visitors will not be allowed to enter the school building, go down hallways or congregate inside the Welcome Center.
- Self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms must be acknowledged each Sunday before bringing children for religious education.
- Parents should inform Sister Diane if their children or family members have been exposed to the virus or have tested positive. Email [dcarollo@stluke.org](mailto:dcarollo@stluke.org) and keep your child at home.

## COVID-19 Screening for Parents

**Every morning before you send your child to school please check the following:**

- 1 **Your student does NOT have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees (may be lower based on your school's policy) OR lower if your child is not feeling well.**

**Other signs of illness such as:**



- 2 **Were you in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks?**
  - 3 **If the answer is YES to any of the questions, DO NOT send your student to school. Instead, begin isolation of your child and contact your healthcare provider. Strongly consider COVID-19 testing.**
- ⇒ **If you have trouble breathing, chest pain, confusion, inability to wake or stay awake or bluish lips or face, CALL 911!**

Updated: 6/7/20



- ISDH guidelines for exclusion and return of the students/catechetical staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or been exposed will be followed at St. Luke.

## Masks, Social Distancing and More

- **Masks are required of all catechetical staff and students.**
- Desks are placed 6 feet apart, where possible. Grades K-5 will have individual desk shields. Masks may be removed once the children are behind the desk shields.
- Grades 6-8 will observe social distancing in the classroom and wear face masks during class.
- **No food or snacks will be permitted in the classroom.**
- Sealed water bottles may be brought into the classroom. Children will not be permitted to drink from the fountains.

- Each child should bring a large towel to class each Sunday so that he or she may sit on the ground when the catechist brings his/her class outside. The towel should be returned home after class.

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- **Sanitation Expectations**

- Regular cleaning and sanitizing procedures will be done in the school before the SMRE classes are admitted each week.
- A hospital-grade CDC approved misting device will be used in the school.
- Following SMRE classes, the areas used will be cleaned before the St. Luke School children return on Monday.
- A thorough deep-cleaning will occur on Wednesdays.
- An indicator where an SMRE child has sat in the classroom will be left for the cleaning crews.

## Guidance for SMRE students and catechetical staff who have been exposed to COVID-19

### COVID-19: When a student, faculty or staff member can return to school



Individual	Symptomatic	No Symptoms
Not Tested <b>with</b> Alternate Explanation (ear or urinary tract infection, etc. as determined by a provider)	May return to school after 24 hours resolution of fever <b>AND</b> note (including email and fax) from provider stating the individual has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.	N/A
Not Tested <b>Without</b> Alternate Explanation	Must remain home for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared <b>AND</b> 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medicine and with improvement of symptoms.	N/A
Tested and Negative	1) If no alternative explanation, <i>isolate</i> for at least 10 days from the first day symptoms appeared <b>AND</b> 24 hours fever-free without fever-reducing medications and with improvement of symptoms. <b>OR</b> 2) The individual can return to school if tested negative <b>AND</b> with a note from the provider stating they believe the patient to have an alternate diagnosis and it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.	1) May proceed with attending school as long as individual has no exposure to a positive case. <b>OR</b> 2) A known close contact (within 6 feet of a confirmed case for more than 15 minutes) must complete a 14-day <i>quarantine</i> , even if test results are negative for COVID-19.
Tested and Positive	Must remain home in <i>isolation</i> for at least 10 days from the date symptoms began <b>AND</b> individual is 24-hours fever free, symptoms have improved. (CDC does not recommend test-based strategy except in certain circumstances, including provider's advice and test availability.)	<i>Isolate</i> at home for 10 days from the day the test was taken. (CDC does not recommend test-based strategy except in certain circumstances, including provider's advice and test availability.) <i>*If the individual develops symptoms, then isolation time starts on day 1 of symptoms (see symptomatic tests positive.)</i>
Close Contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of someone with confirmed COVID-19)	N/A If an individual becomes symptomatic, refer to the symptomatic scenarios. The individual must <i>quarantine</i> for 14 days after contact with the COVID-19 Positive person even if the student has an alternate diagnosis for symptoms.	<i>Quarantine</i> for 14 days before returning to school. Must remain symptom-free. If individual develops symptoms, then refer to the symptomatic scenarios.

Note: QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.  
ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.

Updated: 8/7/20



## Face Coverings

- Catechetical staff must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth throughout the religious education program.
- All SMRE children will arrive with masks on. The masks must be worn by children in Kindergarten through grade 8 when walking through the hallways and when using the restrooms.
- When SMRE students arrive for class, they will social distance in the narthex as they enter the Welcome Center. At dismissal time, masks must be worn.
- Dismissal will begin with grades 6-8. Betsy Phillips will monitor dismissal of the classes in the basement. Dismissal will begin with grade 8. **DISMISSAL WILL BE FROM THE WELCOME CENTER AND NO OTHER EXITS!!**
- Grades K through 5 will be dismissed starting with the highest grade. Trish Biggs will monitor dismissal of the classes. **DISMISSAL WILL BE FROM THE WELCOME CENTER AND NO OTHER EXITS!!**
- **Parents of children in grades K through 4** will social distance themselves in the narthex to receive their children. **There should be no excessive talking or noise during dismissal since the 11:30 a.m. Mass will be in progress.**
- **Grades 5 through 8 will leave the building quietly to meet their parents outside.**
- Grades 6 through 8 are to wear their masks on arrival, during class and dismissal—no exceptions.
- Only two children may use the restroom at one time.
- Hands must be sanitized when entering and leaving the classrooms. The catechists will have sanitizing gel in their bins.
- When children are brought outside for class, masks may not be removed, except for a few initial minutes.

## Worship at St. Luke

- **Masses have resumed on weekdays and weekends. If the health of your family permits, please join our worshipping community for Sunday Mass. SMRE families need to avoid the 11:30 a.m. Mass because it occurs during religious instruction time. Go to [www.stluke.org](http://www.stluke.org) for the complete schedule of Masses and times.**
- **The bishops of Indiana have granted a dispensation from Sunday Mass until November 1. This to protect all those who must remain isolated or in their homes due to the COVID-19 threat that may pose serious problems to their health. If you and your family are out and about, know that we social distance in church and have excellent sanitation between Masses!**

