

Update on Religious Education at Precious Blood Parish

Like all of you, we have been waiting out the summer, to see where schools are for this Fall. Now that some things are clearer, here is the plan for the coming school year in Religious Education:

Those in grade 11 will be confirmed, at a celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation with Archbishop Blair on November 3, 2021. All in grade 11 will receive regular correspondence as we get closer to the date regarding classes to prepare and other activities.

Those in grade 10 will begin meeting in October to prepare for Confirmation in the Fall of their junior year. We think classes will be on Sunday evenings, exact times to be determined. Watch for a survey on vaccination status of those in grade 10 so we can best plan how to hold these classes.

For the Fall, grade 9 will not meet. This will be reevaluated at the end of this calendar year.

For the Fall, grades 7 and 8 will not meet. This will also be reevaluated at the end of the calendar year.

In October, **grade 2** will meet in person, in small classes, on Monday or Tuesday afternoon. 10 weeks in the Fall, 10 weeks in the spring. Grade 2 will prepare for First Reconciliation in late March. **Grade 3** will prepare for First Reconciliation in December, and First Communion in May. We will set dates as the situation becomes clearer how we can gather and in what size groups.

Grades 4, 5, and 6 will not meet in the fall. This will be reevaluated at the end of the calendar year.

Foremost in our plan is to have as many able to receive their sacraments in a timely manner, keeping in mind doing this as safely as possible. We must also keep in mind availability of meeting spaces, and our ability to clean those effectively. None of this is how we would like to deliver the service of Religious Education, but it is the situation we are in at present. Like you all, we hope for better, but must act within the situation as it presents itself. As soon as we are able, all classes in all grades, including quarterly First Grade groups will begin again. Look for emails for your grade with sign up information if your child is in the grades that are meeting. Please join with all of us in praying for an end to this pandemic, especially so the joys of childhood can be evident and plentiful for all our children.

Deacon John