

AMDG

Dear Parish Families,

Thank you for being patient with me as I adjust to this wonderful parish. There have been many items I needed to take care of right away when I first arrived; hiring new staffers being the top priority. Now that I have gotten over that hill, I can focus on restarting our religious education programs. The sooner I know who will be enrolling, the sooner we can get going. So please respond to this email with a brief message letting us know how many students you intend to enroll, and their grade level as soon as you reasonably can.

Due to many factors, especially the pandemic, I have decided, with the advice of the pastoral council, that online instruction is the best way to move forward. While this will certainly be an adjustment, it does provide some unique advantages. 1) Teachers and parents can set times that work best for weekly classes rather than a uniform night for all involved. 2) This will save drive time, and gasoline money. 3) We can utilize well educated catechists from all over the country.

Let me explain #3. I have had the great opportunity to get to know many fervent, and young Catholics throughout my time as a priest. Many of these come from Catholic Univ. of America, Franciscan Univ. of Steubenville, or from various seminaries. In talks with some of these young people, they are willing to teach our religious education via online classrooms. All of them have taken Theology classes at the university level, and are quite engaging in their youthfulness. They are willing to set weekly times that work best with the families they teach. In years past it would be impossible to get this many young catechists with this level of education. Now it is possible.

This is a new approach I realize, but one I believe is worth trying. If internet access is something that is difficult in your home, please let us know and we WILL make accommodations.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please respond to this email, and let us know how many students you intend to enroll in religious ed., and their grade levels. Furthermore, please send us any questions you may have.

prayers,

Rev. Edwin C. Dwyer, JCL



St. Paul the Apostle Parish
Ithaca/Perrinton, MI