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The 2021-22 calendar can be found on our
website <https://www.st-raphaels.com/270>

March 25, 2021

Dear families,

A warm word of welcome to all our new and returning families. We are looking ahead to the start of the new school year and a new catechetical (faith formation) year. After the challenges of the last year and a half, we are ready to move forward with enthusiasm and eagerness to see our students on campus again.

We plan to begin classes the week following Labor Day in September. Classes for Kindergarten through Fifth Grade will take place **10:45AM till Noon** on Sundays. Our Middle Schoolers will continue with their once-a-month class, accompanied by an adult, **6:30 until 8:00PM** on the second Thursday of the month. It goes without saying that the facilities will be sanitized before and after our classes. It is too early to say whether we will need masks, I will call that one in August.

Both the elementary and middle school programs have a Teach-at-Home component for parent who choose to teach their children at home. This option works for parents interested in teaching their children one-on-one, for families who travel often with sporting teams etc., or for parents who have shared custody. **Only families who intend to teach their children at home for the whole school year should check off the Teach-at-Home option on their registration form.**

To make our Sunday program a success we need your gift of time and talent to volunteer as a catechist. Parents are needed at every grade level for Sunday morning. Now is the time to give serious consideration to this so that you can be trained and prepared to begin the school year in September with confidence. Fr. Curtis wants to see a solid team of adults volunteering for this program. Right now, September seems a long way off however, it will be here before you know it.

We are so excited to have Fr. Curtis Carro and Fr. Lou Turcotte as clergy in our parish. These two young priests joined our parish last summer, due to Covid-19 some families have yet to meet them. Please take time when your family comes to Mass to introduce yourself to them. These men have an energy and enthusiasm in interacting with our children and we are blessed by their ministry to us.

If you know of friends, neighbors or relatives who should join our children's faith formation program please pass their name and email on to me so that they can be included in our registration email. Please contact me if you will consider teaching one of the grade levels on campus this year (Gr. K-5) or if you have further questions (727)-821-7989 straphaels@st-raphaels.com.

We will have a meeting for our first-time parents, that is all those new to our Sunday program, during class time on the first day, September 12. This meeting will give parents an orientation to what their children will be learning and how we operate on Sundays. On September 26 we will have our annual meeting for all parents to review our Safe Environment requirements. This too will take place during class time. The location of both meetings will depend on whether we have returned to Coffee & Donuts in the hall after Mass by then. An email closer to the beginning of classes will answer these questions.

Due to Covid-19 this past year many of our families have not yet returned to weekend Mass. Flexible family schedules during summer also challenge Mass attendance. Let me invite all our families to Keep Holy the Sabbath by making Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass a priority going forward. We are practicing social distancing during Mass and our church is sanitized immediately after each Mass so that we can all gather in a healthy environment. The same is done for our student's classroom space. We have really missed getting together and feeling the support of one another that comes from gathering as community to praise God and grow in our faith. Its good to see our parish active again. You have all been missed!

In Christ,

Lynn Edmonds

Director of Faith Formation