

Church School Program - Fall 2020

Given the unusual times with the pandemic, we have developed a different approach to Church School for this Fall. As with many things in life we will need to be fluid and flexible as we move forward and what we have planned may need to be adjusted. The goal of the Fall Church School Plan is *Connection and Community*.

This plan thinks in terms of families and pods and is scheduled from September 13 - November 22. We will reconvene in December and decide what changes and modifications are necessary for January 2021 - May 2021.

Registration is still required and necessary to ensure that we are connecting with families and providing the support, materials, and information throughout the year. In addition to the general registration, each grade level has a separate participation survey to complete.

Church School families should have received an email with information and links to these forms. If you did not receive one and would like to, please send an inquiry to churchschool@stmarysoca.org.

Grades 9-12 (Pod 1)

High school families will celebrate Typika together served by a priest and with communion. **Typika will begin at 10:00 AM in the Parish Center gym.** This group will meet on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month: **September 13 & 27; October 11 & 25; November 8 & 22.**

Grades 6-8 (Pod 2)

Middle school families will celebrate Typika together served by a priest and with communion. **Typika will begin at 10:00 AM in the Parish Center gym.** This group will meet for Typika and class on the third Sunday of the month: **September 20, October 18, and November 15.**

The focus of these Sundays is for high school and middle school families to participate in a service together followed by a church school class (time to connect with each other) and the opportunity for parents to connect. Social distance requirements will be in place.

The church school class will follow the theme **"Connected in Christ"** with the primary goal of providing an opportunity for the students to connect. This is not designed to be a direct teaching situation but rather creating relationships while teachers facilitate discussions and activities that are socially distant.

Typika and class gatherings will follow the usual protocols for attending church and observing social distancing.

Grades 2-5 (Pod 3)

This group of students and their families will be connected by readings and sermons directed at their age level. Students will be invited to read the Epistle and/or Gospel each week to be shared via video with other students/families in this pod. This video will be connected to a videoed sermon.

PreK - 1st Grade (Pod 4)

This group will be connected through the reading of Bible stories. Church School will offer to purchase [The Children's Bible Reader](#) for each family with children in these grades. We offer this as an option as some families already have a Bible they prefer. Pre-recorded Bible stories read by Fr. Ben will be shared with families throughout the Fall.