



American Martyrs Parish

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April 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

I have come to the decision that we should end the Religious Education Program for the current academic year. This decision is based on the following:

- 1) The children have completed most of the classes and can pick up where they left off when they return in September. There were only two sessions scheduled for after Easter anyway so they will have completed most of their lessons.
- 2) It is clear at this point that they will not be returning to the classroom in this academic cycle.
- 3) Our wonderful catechists, who have continued to be involved with the children online, are volunteers who also have family matters to attend to. We are extremely appreciative of all they have done.
- 4) The children have their books and can continue, with your guidance, to learn about their faith in the safety of their own homes. Remember what I always remind you of, that parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith.

I cannot say yet when we will be able to hold First Communions and Confirmations. It seems likely that it will be sometime in the Fall. We will, of course, let you know.

Mrs. Asche will be sending out registration forms for the Fall of 2020. It is important that we know if your children will be returning to complete their religious education. If they are not, please let us know so that we can order the correct number of books.

This has been a difficult time for all of us, and children especially need to know that God is very much an important part of their lives. Nurture them in the faith, watch Mass on TV with them on Sundays, pray with them (especially the Rosary), and don't take for granted the love that God has given us through His Son Jesus. They need to know about Jesus, and you are the only ones that can teach them by word and example.

Stay safe and healthy, and despite the Coronavirus pandemic, have a Happy and blessed Easter Season filled with hope and love.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Frank Schwarz
Pastor