



The Basilica Church of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary  
Religious Education Program

168 Hill Street, Southampton, New York 11968

[reled@shjmbasilica.org](mailto:reled@shjmbasilica.org) :: [www.shjmbasilica.org](http://www.shjmbasilica.org) :: 631-283-0508

August 14, 2020.

Dear Religious Education Families:

I hope you are well and are enjoying a good summer with families and friends, despite the very different summer we are having.

Responding to the very different present situation, our religious education program will be different this year. Specific information about the program is listed below. The changes reflect the need for health and safety as well as the need for children to have a variety of meaningful learning experiences.

Classes begin next month and I am asking you to register your children now for the 2020-2021 religious education program. Registering your children at this time will allow us to make appropriate plans to begin the program in September. Please assist us by returning the form as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday, September 2. We plan to have smaller classes and your prompt registration of your child will help us plan for a safe learning environment for all.

To register your child(ren), we ask you to:

- Check that the information printed on the Registration Form is correct. Make any necessary changes and complete the rest of the form. Be sure that your cell/text number and e-mail address are correct, as these will be our primary ways of communicating with you.
- Return the registration form and fee to Sacred Hearts by Wednesday, September 2.
- Enclose a copy of the baptismal certificate for any new or first grade child who was not baptized at Sacred Hearts

**Registration forms need to be received by September 2 so we can order materials and arrange classes. Registration forms must be processed before students are assigned to a class.**

The fee schedule is the same as last year. There is a family registration fee of \$100 per family plus a per child materials and ceremonies fee. Make check payable to Sacred Hearts Basilica

- Per child materials fee for grade 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 - \$25
- Per child materials fee for grade 2 and 8 - \$75

So a family with a third grader and an eighth grader would pay  $\$100 + \$25 + \$75 = \$200$ .

**Here are some salient points about the 2020-2021 program:**

- Policies and procedures for your children's safety are aligned with the plans made by our local school districts and have been adapted for religious education.
  - Masks are worn by everyone while in the building.
  - Social distancing is required.

- Students are asked to wash their hands and use the restroom at home before they arrive at the school building. Classes are shorter and thus the need for using the restrooms should be minimal.
- Snacks are not permitted.
- We will alternate having classes in person (and if not possible, by Zoom) and having children do Faith in Action activities. This provides an opportunity for parents and other adults to work with our children as they learn about the faith and lets children learn through different modalities.
- Since students in grade 2 and grade 8 are preparing for the reception of sacraments, additional classes or activities, either in person or online, may be required.
- Should it be necessary to make any changes in the program, parents will be notified by text and/or email.

**Specific points about the program:**

- Faith in Action activities are integral to the program. Please work with your child on these simple learning activities, with younger children needing more assistance. You can invite relatives and friends to work with your child on these activities.
- For several of the Faith in Action activities, children are asked to attend Mass and then write or draw a response. Children can attend Mass in person or can watch a Mass online from Sacred Hearts or any church.
- A Bible will be used for some of these Faith in Action activities. Children can certainly use your family Bible or you may want to obtain a Bible that is age-appropriate for your child.
- A packet of materials will be given to each child at the first in-person meeting. Materials will also be posted on the parish website and emailed to parents, where possible.
- We expect that the *Child Lures Prevention: Think First & Stay Safe* program for students in grades 1-6 will be required by the diocese as it was last year. We do not yet know if this lesson will be in person or online.
- It may be necessary to hold some classes by Zoom. Please help your child participate in these short Zoom classes, as is necessary because of their age.

Our opening Mass will be on Sunday, September 27 at 9:30 a.m. Please make every effort to attend this Mass or watch it online. Sunday religious education will begin that day and Wednesday classes will begin on September 30. You can check our website for updates and new information at [www.shjmbasilica.org](http://www.shjmbasilica.org).

Thank you for participating in the important work of passing on the Faith to our children.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Mike*

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano