



St. Priscilla Religious Education Program  
6949 W Addison St, Chicago IL 60634  
Tel. 773 685 3785 [aharmata@archchicago.org](mailto:aharmata@archchicago.org)

Praise the Lord Jesus Christ, Now and Forever!

Dear Parents,

As we enter the 6th month of the pandemic, we pray your family is healthy. This time at home has shown us that our Catholic faith within the family is our foundation. We understand the challenges you are facing adapting to working from home, transitioning children to e-learning, possibly loss of work or health concerns. As we strengthen our faith through praying together and sharing experiences, we grow closer to our Lord Jesus. Amid ever changing situations, we put our trust in "Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday and today and forever." We find peace in the presence of God in our lives.

Since April, faith formation directors in the archdiocese met to share and plan a vision for new paradigms for Catechesis. Therefore, after prayerful consideration for the safety of our children, volunteers, families and staff, along with feedback from volunteers and many families, we have made the decision to offer three options: In-Person (once a month and two on-line catechesis), Fully Remote, and Homeschool option only for this 2020-2021 year. Also, the school program is divided into 3 tracks to minimize interpersonal contact of parents and students.

We are creating a special version of the program for our families. We are developing a Religious Education site that will work alongside your child's Workbook chapters. The RE site will include engaging activities that children did in the classroom which have been adapted to home experience. We are finalizing the site and soon you will be able to access it. This exciting, engaging opportunity will give families spirit-filled options to grow in faith. You will discover our RE model offers many ways to grow in faith:

- Each child will receive a grade level Workbook- the newest edition 2021. Each lesson has few bar codes on given pages that allow to listen, view, or download extra activities.
- Each child grade 1-6 will have the access to a game: *Wonderlight: A Pilgrim's Adventure*, which is a groundbreaking online game for Catholic kids of all ages as well as those interested in learning about the Catholic faith.
- On-line Religious Education Site: RE Grades Section with engaging, easy to follow activities to dive deeper into each chapter, assignments required to complete for remote learning or absent students and homework.
- On-line Parent Section - monthly themes with a summary of covered lessons, and activities for families to do together.
- Classes on ZOOM with a catechist, twice a month
- Sacramental Prep, 2nd, 7th and 8th grade will have events to prepare for the sacraments; parents meeting on ZOOM and possible family in-person events by grade level or Zoom during the year (please look at the calendar). Details to come.

**If you did not renew your children's registration, please do so ASAP to allow time to order materials.**

Together we will walk this new, exciting path of forming our youth, as families share faith, form a deeper bond with Jesus and St. Priscilla Parish.

We operate on a very minimal budget, always conscious that we are stewards of the generous, supportive families we minister to. However, we also recognize the pandemic has had significant financial impact on families. Any family in need of a financial scholarship should please contact Anna Harmata. All families are welcome, no one is denied formation due to financial difficulties. Any payment of fees to St Priscilla Church are deeply appreciated, to maintain the best faith formation program in the area. We are grateful for your continued support.

Faith is lived. Faith is not academic; it is love that is lived in our daily life. We live through what we believe, how we pray, worship and experience life. You are models of Christ in the world today. We trust your family will deepen your relationship with the faith community and our Heavenly Father. We know, from personal experiences raising children, that faith formation is essential to the foundation of our youths' development. The consistent deepening of the Catholic faith builds upon each year to prepare us for everyday life with the challenges we occasionally must face. We have certainly experienced these the last five months. We have relied on faith as we adjusted to many restrictions, transitioning to working from home, e-learning, health issues, loss of physical visits from family and more. Faith unites us with the living, true God, our savior, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit at work in the world.

**RE will have the first parents meeting on ZOOM, on Sept 12, 10:00AM- 11:00AM**, during the following week parents can pick up Workbooks and supplies for children that will start the year with on-line classes.

**RE will begin on September 19, In-Person classes for Gr. K,1, 4, 7.-** they will receive their books on the first day of the class.

**On September 20 we will offer families the opportunity to celebrate Holy Mass together at 12:30PM:** Catechetical Sunday with the blessing of parents and catechists.

For now, please focus on your family and regular back-to-school. Look for more communication from RE in September/ October. If you have any questions, please e-mail, or visit us during office hours Monday- Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm Monday, I am off Thursdays. God Bless to all our families,

Anna Harmata, CRE

