



September 2020

Dear RE Families,

I want to welcome you to another year of Faith Formation here at St. Raphael. My name is Sydney Schneider, and I am your new Director of Religious Education. This year is certainly like none other, but I am so thrilled to see how all of you have chosen to make religious education a priority in this unprecedented time. Now more than ever, it is essential that we all work together to help our children grow in relationship with the light that no darkness can overcome—Jesus Christ.

Our program will begin virtually on October 4 and remain virtual until at least November, when we hope to begin bringing students back into the school building. We will bring in the youngest grades first and hope to have everyone back in school building in January. Of course, everything is subject to change as we track the latest developments within the pandemic. I will communicate any updates via email, so please look out for those messages.

Please know that we are aware of the high amount of screen time that many of our students are experiencing due to e-learning in the public schools. Because of this, we have asked catechists to keep any Zoom meetings 45 minutes or less, preferably 30 minutes. This means that catechists may offer supplemental resources for your family or student to work with outside of the Zoom session. Parents, I invite you to take this opportunity to grow even more deeply in your role as the primary catechist of your child. I pray that throughout all of the challenges that this year brings, faith formation can be something which brings your whole family strength, joy, and peace as we all grow closer to Christ, our Good Shepherd, who leads us in both joyful and trying times.

Blessings,
Sydney Schneider
Director of Children's Religious Education