



August 1, AD 2020

Dear Parents,

Greetings in Christ! Because of COVID, this year we will begin the fall semester with at-home instruction and hopefully transition to in-person classes later in the year. We will use the same texts as last year, from Sophia Press, which include on-line assignments and instructions. Because the COVID situation is uncertain, we will remain flexible as to how, when, and if we return to classroom instruction.

We will begin with monthly pick-up and drop-off of work. I encourage parents to meet with me as soon as possible to pick-up materials safely with social distancing; I will contact you after I receive your registration form to arrange that. My schedule is flexible, and I am sure we can find a mutually convenient time. For those who are not able to meet early, please pick-up your children's materials on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> in Mother Teresa Hall during the following times: 8:00am – 8:30am; 9:30am – 11:00am; 12:00n – 12:30pm; 1:30pm – 2:30pm (before and after morning Masses).

Families will be put into groups of 3 families to support each other; you will be assigned to a group based on your children's ages. You will receive weekly emails with reminders about work for the week as well as Sunday Mass preparation and other information. Some of this work will include interacting with your family group – virtually or in person, as the group chooses.

Most importantly, please take your children **to Mass weekly**. As of the writing of this email, the diocesan dispensation from attending Sunday Mass is still in place, but as soon as your family is able, please make sure you attend Mass. Families who are out shopping together or attending sporting events should be comfortable attending Mass. If you have just started to go out together, you might want to start by attending a daily Mass.

**Reminder of St. Mary's Sacramental Policy:** In order to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation, children must attend, at the very minimum, two full years of Christian Formation classes. This policy is intended to ensure that your child has the best sacramental formation possible.

Please complete the registration form and submit it to the parish office, put it in a clearly marked envelope and place it in the Sunday basket, or mail it to St. Mary Help of Christians, PO Box 438, Aiken, SC 29802. After I receive your form, I will contact you about meeting.

Contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

God bless,

*Mary Ellen Jackson*

[mjackson@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:mjackson@charlestdiocese.org)

Director of Religious Education  
St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church  
Office: 803-642-2676