

Welcome to the 2020- 2021 Religious Education year. We are about to find out, all the new opportunities that this new year of RE will bring. I know you all have been waiting patiently on us to give you updates on how we are going to do it. Our goal is to provide a healthy and safe environment for all our children. We have been working with our Diocese on implementing all the regulations they require. The reintegration process of RE will be in three different platforms of learning. I have hyperlinked all the online learning resources, for your convenience.

1. Online: [My Catholic Faith Delivered](#).

2. In person: this will be **only** for 2nd and 8th grade students.

3. Home School: A series of textbooks approved by the Diocese of Arlington: [Alive in Christ](#) (Our Sunday Visitor); [Christ Our Life](#) (Loyola Press); [Faith and Life](#) (Ignatius Press); or [Spirit of Truth](#) (Sophia Institute Press). The Standards of Learning are outlined under the RE page on the parish website.

The [SOLs from our Diocese](#), require 30 hours of religious Study per student, and that the student take an evaluation (exam) of some form. Also, there is a mandatory class called: Formation in Christian Chastity. This instruction will be provided on Nov.2nd, 2020 at 6 pm in the Main Church. This instruction to the Parents will be given in both English and in Spanish. in English as well as in Spanish to the Parents. Then you, as a parent, will pass this instruction on- to your children. This formation is age appropriated.

This year is different, nevertheless we can be very creative in catechizing our children, i. e. during fall we can do outdoor activities, and study God's creation, at Thanksgiving, we can learn about the virtues, Christmas would be a great time to do Christmas Plays (posadas) within our own homes and amongst our family. If there are not enough participants at home, coloring and cutting Christmas themed items, will be another wonderful option. Lent brings more opportunities to grow in the Faith as family. Let us use our imagination and creativity to make this RE year special.

Please know that you are not alone in this. Our parish has so many people of goodwill that are more than willing, and want to help out others, so don't be afraid to reach out to them, or myself. Please let me know, how I may assist you better. We will get through this.

In Christ

Sr. Laura Elena Nieves PCI