



Hello Families!

I have missed you all during this time of social distancing and limited attendance to our church. Hopefully by now, you all know that the church is open for Mass on a daily basis and I highly encourage you to attend Mass either Saturday at 5:30 or Sunday at 10 am.

We will be having Religious Education classes this year. Due to our schools being closed, we will be waiting until October to begin classes. If Covid-19 cases continue to drop, La Grande elementary schools might be able to welcome grades K to 3 back to their respective buildings in early October. Our plan is for classes to begin on Sunday, October 18!

We will use the same format as last year. Pre-K to 6th grades will meet on Sundays after Mass; 7th to 12th grades will meet on Wednesday evenings. We received a lot of great feedback and feel that it is the best model to effectively reach as many youth as possible.

I realize everyone has a different degree of comfort when gathering in public. I can assure you that we will be practicing social distancing and keeping our age groups together. Our traditional groupings of Pre-K & K, 1st & 2nd, 3rd & 4th, and 5th & 6th grades will be together in their own classroom. We will use the Our Sunday Visitor curriculum for these younger grades. Teen Life will be the curriculum for grades 7 to 12.

If for some reason your family is not comfortable joining us for classes, we can easily adapt the OSV or Teen Life curriculum into a home school model. Our Diocese recently introduced us to a great family catechism resource that I would encourage you to check out. Here is the link: <https://sophiainstituteforteachers.org/shop/family-of-faith> If you would rather stay home, this could be your primary curriculum or it could be a great family supplement even if you decide to join us for class.

Registration forms will be available during Mass, you can stop by the office for one or you can download from the OLV website or Facebook page. Please fill it out and return it to the parish office as soon as possible.

Let's not forget that none of this will be possible without your help. PLEASE let me know if you would like to teach or be one of the assistants. It would also be nice to have a couple of "Guardian Angels", adults who are willing to monitor the parish hall while classes are in session. Until we can continue our coffee hour, I believe this is a necessary position.

Please email me at [youth@olvcatholic.org](mailto:youth@olvcatholic.org) or call the parish office if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you and your families at Mass and then in our Religious Ed classes! God Bless!

Jimmy Zamora  
Director of Religious Education  
Our Lady of the Valley Parish