



# SS Cyril and Methodius Religious Education Program

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September 2021

Dear Parents,

Praised be Jesus Christ! On behalf of SS. Cyril and Methodius (SSCM) parish, we would like to warmly welcome everyone in the 2021-2022 Catechetical Year.

We hope that this year will be a fruitful time for all of us to work together and an opportunity to grow in faith. Our mission is to work with parents and students to shape a strong generation of Catholics who know and love Jesus Christ. We promise that in our Catechetical Program we will do our best to support you and help your children to grow in faith, and to prepare them to face the challenges of the world with a deeper knowledge and love for God and His Church.

Once again, we would like to thank you wholeheartedly for your trust and for enrolling your children in our catechetical program this year. Despite the current circumstances caused by the coronavirus and the restrictions, we are glad to meet again in the school building and resume classes in-person. May God give us hope and strength as we continue our journey of faith as one parish community.

Before we begin our religious education program for the 2021/22 catechetical year, we would like to share with you some very important information.

Please read through this information carefully and familiarize yourself with our program:

## **FIRST DAY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*Wednesday Session - September 29<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm*

On the first day of class, we ask that all students come directly to the church since we will be celebrating our opening mass. Catechists will be waiting for their students in the back of the

church to help them find their assigned seats. All pews will be marked so everyone knows where to go.

Please see the table below listing our Monday session catechists. They are wonderful and dedicated individuals who will be working with your children and sharing their faith.

<b>WEDNESDAY SESSION</b>			
<b>GRADE</b>	<b>CATECHIST</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>ROOM</b>
1	Monika Morajka	<a href="mailto:morajka.monika@re.stcyril.org">morajka.monika@re.stcyril.org</a>	108
2	Mary Montague	<a href="mailto:montague.mary@re.stcyril.org">montague.mary@re.stcyril.org</a>	103
3	Kyle Kallberg	<a href="mailto:kallberg.kyle@re.stcyril.org">kallberg.kyle@re.stcyril.org</a>	104
4	Kimberly Flavin	<a href="mailto:flavin.kimberly@re.stcyril.org">flavin.kimberly@re.stcyril.org</a>	105
5	Nina Styrzula	<a href="mailto:styrzula.nina@re.stcyril.org">styrzula.nina@re.stcyril.org</a>	106
6	John Pazdziora	<a href="mailto:pazdziora.john@re.stcyril.org">pazdziora.john@re.stcyril.org</a>	206
7A	Jim Crockett	<a href="mailto:crockett.jim@re.stcyril.org">crockett.jim@re.stcyril.org</a>	205
7B	Kurt Korte	<a href="mailto:korte.kurt@re.stcyril.org">korte.kurt@re.stcyril.org</a>	200
8	Chris Kolodziej	<a href="mailto:kolodziej.chris@re.stcyril.org">kolodziej.chris@re.stcyril.org</a>	204

### **SESSION CALENDAR**

A copy of the calendar for the current catechetical year is attached to this letter. We kindly ask you to carefully familiarize yourself with those dates.

### **MEET AND GREET**

Parents will be invited and have the opportunity to meet our wonderful staff and catechists at our Meet & Greet evening which will take place October 21, 2021. More details to follow.

### **PUNCTUALITY**

Catechetical classes are conducted on Wednesdays, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Parents are responsible for bringing their children to class on time each week. All classes begin with a group prayer and it is very important for students to come to class on time to participate in the group prayer, which helps with their spiritual development. It can be very disruptive when a student is late, and the catechist is trying to get that day's lesson/activities underway.

***\*On the first day of class please arrive at 5:45PM so that we can seat everyone. Mass will begin promptly at 6:00PM.***

### **ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION**

Throughout the Catechetical Year, students will have the opportunity to take part in the Holy Mass, Devotions, Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and other events related to the teaching of the Catholic Church. Students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will focused on receiving the following sacraments this year:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade - The Sacrament of Confirmation**

**NECESSARY SUPPLIES FOR RE LESSONS**

We ask that each Student brings the following supplies to RE classes:

3 pencils

2 black pens

1 pack of wax or pencil crayons

1 pack of felt-tip pens

1 scissors (suitable for the age of the child)

1 highlighter

2 glue sticks

1 folder (2 pocket)

1 gallon bag to be used to hold the student's supplies (which will be signed and stored in the class basket)

A few sheets of wide rule paper to be placed in the child's folder

1 composition notebook (wide rule) \*no spiral notebooks please

\*Students will receive their textbook/workbook during class from their catechist.

**STUDENT SSCM RE EMAIL ACCOUNTS**

Each student registered for our catechetical program has an RE email account that he/she should use when taking part in our classes. The account is opened using the Gmail platform under the RE.STCYRIL domain. Students who participated in the virtual religious education program last year (2020/21) will be using the same RE email accounts. If you are a new family, an email account has been generated for each of your children. Parents are asked to help their children log into the Gmail platform. Please see below for instructions on how to login to your student's account.

**LOG IN / HOW TO**

Please enter the following address: **[www.gmail.com/login](http://www.gmail.com/login)**

Enter the child's email address: here is an example: [smith.john@re.stcyril.org](mailto:smith.john@re.stcyril.org).

After entering the email address, the student will be asked to enter a password (listed in the table below).

A student email is created by using the *last name* and *first name* (in that order) that was **provided on the registration form** by the parent/guardian.

IE: [lastname.firstname@re.stcyril.org](mailto:lastname.firstname@re.stcyril.org).

When logging in to the email account for the first time, the student will be asked to set up his/her account. Grades 1-5 receive a general password from us (cannot be changed). Students in grades 6-8 will be able to change their password after logging in for the first time.

CLASS	PASSWORD	
1	2029comets	Password remains the same
2	2028comets	Password remains the same
3	2027comets	Password remains the same
4	2026comets	Password remains the same
5	2025comets	Password remains the same
6	2024comets	<i>Password has to be changed</i>
7	2023comets	<i>Password has to be changed</i>
8	2022comets	<i>Password has to be changed</i>

**IMPORTANT:** Please log into your email accounts carefully and remember your password. Inaccurate input of information will block access to the email account. If your account becomes blocked, please contact the RE office to have the account reset.

All students should activate/access their SSCM RE email accounts and accept their Google Classroom invitation by the end of next week – October 2, 2021.

Please be mindful to remember your password. All students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be required to give their passwords to their catechists. For security purpose, all students' emails are restricted and monitored by the SSCM parish school IT manager. Only a student's RE email account can be used to login to Google Classroom. Students may not use their personal email address or their parents' email address for any religious program activities.

The new e-mail account is for religious curriculum purposes only. Please remember to log out when you finish using your account.

Electronic communication between the student and the catechist will only take place via the Google Classroom/RE Gmail account. After setting up the RE email account, the catechist will soon send an invitation to each student to a virtual class/Google Classroom. It is the student's responsibility to accept this invitation in order to be part of this class group.

**NOTE: ALL STUDENT CORRESPONDENCE USING THE SSCM RE EMAIL, GOOGLE CLASSROOM, AND GOOGLE MEETS IS SUPERVISED AND MONITORED. THE STUDENT CANNOT USE INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE AND/OR EXHIBIT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. THE PARENT ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY**

**FOR THE APPROPRIATE CONDUCT OF THEIR CHILD WHEN USING THE RE EMAIL ACCOUNT OR VIRTUAL/GOOGLE CLASSROOM. IF A STUDENT DOESN'T COMPLY WITH SAFETY RULES, THERE WILL BE CONSEQUENCES.**

If you have any problems logging in to your child's account, please contact our RE office and we will be happy to assist you.

### **COMMUNICATION / CATECHIST - PARENT**

*Over the next couple of weeks SSCM catechists will be reaching out to you via email to introduce themselves.*

If a parent would like to contact their child's catechist, they can send a message using the catechist's email anytime. If a parent would like to speak to the catechist in person, please call our RE office at (630)257-9314 and we will arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient date and time. Keep in mind that our catechists are VOLUNTEERS and may not be available right away depending on their work/personal schedule. Please note the email address of your child's catechist is in the table provided above in this letter.

All SSCM catechists are wonderful volunteers who willingly share their faith with your children and devote their spare time to help our RE program be successful. We ask parents to make sure that the children perform their weekly work on the date specified by the catechist. If catechist asks a student to learn assigned prayers, we ask parents to ensure the child learns the requested prayers. However, if the student has any difficulties or needs additional help, please contact the catechist or RE office.

### **SESSION CHANGE**

Students cannot change the day of religion classes from Monday to Wednesday. The student is obligated to attend RE classes on the day for which he/she is registered. A student may only **miss a total of 5 classes in a catechetical year**. Understandably, sometimes things happen thus any absences above and beyond 5 must be excused with a doctor's note. Frequent missed classes and unexcused absences may result in the student having to repeat a given class. No exceptions will be made for missing classes due to other after school activities such as; sports, music lessons/performances, dance, etc. The student and parents are responsible for catching up on the material that is covered in the classroom and any homework that may have been missed. Please contact the catechist via email in order to receive any assignment information.

**Please report a student's absence to:  
RE Office (630)257-9314**

**Parents are encouraged to add the RE office phone number in their contact list on their mobile phone. A message on the RE line may be left if there is no answer.**

## **ELEVATOR USE**

The use of the parish school elevator by students is prohibited except in case when a student is in a wheelchair or on crutches.

## **GENERAL COMMUNICATION**

*Communication from the RE office throughout the catechetical year will be conducted electronically only. Please check your email regularly. Please carefully check the following email folders: Inbox, Spam, Junk and Promotions.*

All messages regarding the catechetical program, holy sacraments, lesson plan, homework, projects, masses, services, and others will be sent from the "MailChimp" platform using the email address below:

☐ RE office email: [stcyrilre@sscmlemont.org](mailto:stcyrilre@sscmlemont.org)

\*\*\*Please be sure to mark this email as "safe" to avoid these emails landing in your spam/junk folders.

\*\*\**RE Weekly News is sent every Friday.*

Additional correspondence may be sent from the following emails as well:

☐ Monika Leja / Religious Education Administrator / email: [mleja@sscmlemont.org](mailto:mleja@sscmlemont.org)

☐ Roxana Boyden / Administrative Assistant email: [rboyden@sscmlemont.org](mailto:rboyden@sscmlemont.org)

Additionally, all communications will be posted to your child's Google Classroom. The student as well as the parent is responsible for consistently checking their RE email account/Google Classroom, which will contain all important information sent by catechists and RE Office.

Please be advised that many times parents have security restrictions on their devices and/or their email providers that prevent messages from a "group" email service like the one we use from being delivered to their inbox. We kindly ask you to check your computer settings so that you can stay up to date on any RE related communications. If there is a change of email, please notify our office immediately so that we can update our system.

Cooperation with SSCM parish employees as well as with catechists is essential for the proper spiritual development of your child. Parents, as the primary educators of their children, have the duty and responsibility of preparing their children for classes, helping to teach the required prayers, preparing for holy sacraments, attending meetings and events (if scheduled), and attending masses.

In addition to email the Remind platform will be used to send brief texts to parents regarding RE activities. Catechists will be passing out Remind set up instructions to students and they will be posted in Google Classroom as well.

## **RE PROGRAM REQUIREMENT**

The Catechetical Program runs from grades 1 to 8. Students starting the 1<sup>st</sup> grade must have turned 6 years old by August 31, 2021.

*\*Each student is required to complete Grades 1 and 2 to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.*

*\*Each student is required to complete Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

## **FOOD / SNACKS**

Students are not allowed to eat any food while in RE class. If the RE Program organizes any special events, food will be served only in the school cafeteria, in which case, parents will be notified in advance.

## **ALLERGIES / CONDITIONS / AND OTHER**

Although the RE office has personal data and information for each student and shares it with the student's catechist. For additional piece of mind, please inform the catechist about any allergies, medical or intellectual conditions your child might have that the catechist should be aware of when working with your child.

## **MEETINGS / SACRAMENTS**

Parents who have children in 2nd and 8th grades are required to participate in information meetings (if scheduled) regarding the preparation for the Holy Sacraments. Any information regarding such meetings pertaining to Holy Sacraments will be sent to parents by email.

## **STUDENT REGULATIONS / CODE OF CONDUCT**

Students who attend the SSCM RE Program are required to follow the Student Code of Conduct, which they will sign personally during their RE class. Please feel free to talk to your children at home about proper behavior in school and in class. If a student fails to abide by the Student Code of Conduct, a meeting with the parents will be arranged to discuss a further course of action which may include removal from the program. (In the attachment, you will find the Student Code of Conduct). We ask parents to review these regulations with their child(ren) before the beginning of the catechetical year.

## **ARRIVAL / DISMISSAL**

Please read and familiarize yourself with the updated RE arrival/dismissal procedures outlined in the attachment at the end of this letter. Contact the RE office if you have any questions. Please be patient with our staff during the first couple weeks of the session as it sometimes takes a couple sessions for everyone to get into the swing of things.

## **FAMILY PARTICIPATION IN THE HOLY MASS**

Let us remember that Holy Mass is essential for the formation of the Catholic faith in our lives. The Catholic faith requires practicing Catholics to participate in the Holy Mass and receive the sacrament of reconciliation, attend mass every Sunday and days of obligation. We strongly encourage you to participate in holy masses, liturgical events and confessions in our parish to the best of your ability. Please visit our parish website regularly: [www.stcyril.org](http://www.stcyril.org) for the latest news and to see what is happening at our parish.

## **COVID-19**

Considering the current situation with the Covid-19 corona virus and complying with current Illinois and Archdiocese of Chicago guidelines, we ask you to continue to ensure the safety of all students. If your child shows any flu like symptoms, please leave your child at home, and notify our RE office. Also, if your child was exposed to the Covid-19 virus, please do not send him/her to school and inform our office. In case of a positive Covid-19 test result, please notify our staff as soon as possible and keep the child at home for a 10-day quarantine. Also, we will inform you immediately if your child comes into contact with another person who has been diagnosed with a positive result for Covid-19 while attending catechetical classes.

In accordance with the current restrictions of the State of Illinois and the Archdiocese of Chicago, all students participating in classes indoors are requested to wear a face mask. We inform parents that currently our classes will be conducted in the school building, although we are not able to predict and guarantee that the current teaching situation will not change. Everything will depend on the restrictions imposed by the state of Illinois and the Archdiocese of Chicago. All dates in our calendar are subject to change. Please be patient and understanding, as we have no influence on some situations that may arise. (For more details please refer to the RE Parent Handbook.)



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For more information on the Catechetical Program, please visit our website at [www.re.stcyril.org](http://www.re.stcyril.org)

If you have additional questions, please contact us at:

Tel. (630)257-9314 or email: [stcyrilre@sscmlemont.org](mailto:stcyrilre@sscmlemont.org).

Thank you for your cooperation! We wish everyone God's blessings and protection for the 2021-2022 catechetical year.

Kind regards,

Rev. Waldemar Stawiarski  
Pastor

Rev. Thomas Koys  
Associate Pastor

Monika Leja  
Religious Education Administrator

Roxana Boyden  
Administrative Assistant



*All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children.*

-Isaiah 54:13

\*SSCM = SS Cyril & Methodius

\*RE = Religious Education

\*BL RE = Bilingual Religious Education (Polish/English)

\*PLB = Parish Life Building