

Dear faithful families,

Thanks for your patience in our start to REP! Most of you have heard from your catechists by now, if not, let me know. Some catechists were taking a bit more time to get this, "new tech" way of faith formation going so hang in there.

There are bound to be some learning curves when starting a new program, which we have all experienced. Here is a brief summary of what we would like you to know and understand:

1. No student will fail REP! We are partners with you in providing faith formation to your children. Remember our goal this year, "Formation vs. Information"! For the children to grow closer to Jesus Christ through the lessons and prayers they will participate in.

2. The CIU Lessons are designed to be short, but meaningful.

3. There are not Sunday vs. Wednesday sessions this year. Students were moved around to balance out boys/girls, etc. We did not have all catechists return for the "Virtual" year, so we did the best we could in creating classes.

4. Flexibility is an important element to this year's program. Some catechists will hold their Live Lessons on a day that is not necessarily great for you. It is ok. All lessons are recorded and made available each week. So catch up when the timing works best for you and your family.

5. The CIU curriculum is called a, "spiral" curriculum. This means that each lesson teaches the same theme/topic throughout all the grades. Of course it will go more in-depth as you get into the older grades, but this platform makes it a wonderful way to be able to discuss what they are learning at the dinner table.

6. IMPORTANT: ALL messages and information from your children's catechists will be sent through the CIU site. You will not be receiving messages through regular email (except from our office and parish). I will be sending out a schedule of when your catechist will be posting new lessons, so you will know when to check messages in CIU. Whenever the student is messaged, the parents automatically get a copy in their messages.

This is where the flexibility needs to come into play. We must have catechists communicate this way due to the important Child Safety Regulations.

If you or your child has not received their log-in info from CIU, please email me so I can get that to you.

And lastly I leave you with this thought - we all need to be mindful of giving one another a little SPACE for GRACE! The grace that God bestows on all of us to help us to be the best that we can possibly be. In the office when things are getting a bit crazy, we remind each other of this simple phrase . . .and so far it is working!

Have a wonderful week!

Faithfully,

Tara A. Penza

