



5205 A1A South, St. Augustine FL 32080
Phone: 904-471-5364
Email: dre@saccfl.org
Fax: 904-471-7448

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Dear Parents,

Saint Pope John Paul II said, *"I plead with you--never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."* These words, applicable to what we endured during the pandemic, brought comfort and security to the faithful. Through prayer, diligence, and adhering to the guidelines provided by the CDC, St. Anastasia provided the PREP families a safe and enjoyable religious education experience last year.

Many families chose the Home Study option to ensure the safety of their family during the pandemic. Although this option is still offered to those who are unable to attend on Wednesday evening, a directive was given by the Bishop's office asking for all religious education students to return to class. Community and associating with peers of the same faith in the classroom environment brings a better understanding of the Gospel, the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of the church to the student. It allows for small group discussions, question and answer sessions, activities related to the topic and social interaction not available with the Home Study option. It enriches the learning process. I look forward to seeing your child/children experiencing these dynamics and much more on Wednesday evenings.

With the changes created last year to ensure the health and safety of the children, the carline turned out to be a positive change that will continue this year. Along with the forms listed below, are the instructions for drop off and pick up for the Wednesday evening PREP program.

Enclosed in this packet are the following forms:

- A. **Parish Religious Education Program Registration Form** for 2021-2022: Complete and return
- B. **Child Photography Release Form**: Sign and return
- C. **PREP Calendar for 2021-2022**
- D. **Drop off and Pick up carline instructions**

Even with the changes, and challenges COVID-19 brought to our lives, God stayed his course. He has been with each of us through the challenges we encountered. His Love, His Son, and His Spirit was the hope we leaned on, relied on and depended on to guide us through to the other side of this challenging journey. We can now praise him in thanksgiving!

I look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Denise Pressley
Denise Pressley, M.P.S
Director of Religious Education