

August 5, 2020

Dear Parents,

Peace in the name of Christ!

I hope you and your families are well and healthy. To say that the year 2020 has been interesting, would an understatement. When many of the schools left for Spring Break in March, I doubt anyone would have imagined that our normality would change. But, the reality is that, for now, our lives have been transformed into one full of virtual Masses, social distancing, masks and disinfectants. Remember in May when they reopened the clothing stores? I'm sure many of us felt some relief. But now? We're desperate have our gathering and parties like we normally would.

St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that in life we spend moments of consolation and desolation. In moments of consolation, we feel joy and are happy. It is in these moments that we thank God and try to bring us closer to Him. But in times of desolation, we go through difficulties, sadness and restlessness. It is in these moments that we may ask God, "Why? Why God?!" and many times, instead of approaching God, we look for other forms of distraction (drinking, working more, social networks, etc....) so as not to think about problems. I think, particularly since March, we've all been through moments of consolation and desolation - and this IS OK. St Ignatius taught that consolation and desolation are normal parts of our spiritual lives. The important thing is, how do we get out of the desolation? The easy answer is to change the "Why God?" to a "Please help me God".

When we started Confirmation classes in December 2019, I told you that the Sacrament of Confirmation is the beginning of a new journey of faith for young people. Confirmation is when they begin their personal relationship with God. I remind you of this because, although we couldn't have the preparation as planned, the preparation was always just the beginning. The adventure of a personal and mature relationship with God is only about to begin for your children. How beautiful! Thanks to the legal restrictions on COVID-19 there is more time to be at home, increase our faith and create a more intimate and mature relationship with God. And it is with that in mind that some changes will be made to the preparation of Confirmation.

In advance, I thank you for all your support, patience and help in this time. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, questions or concerns. You can contact me by phone or email. My goal has not changed – I want to continue helping your children on their path to the Catholic faith.

Thank you and may God's peace and love always be with you,

Cristina Ruiz

Effective August 12, 2020 – Preparation format for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- **As of August 12, the confirmation date remains the same – Thursday, October 15 at 7pm; Student must arrive at 5:15pm for a talk with the Bishop**
 - Due to legal capacity and social distancing restrictions, only 5 people are allowed per family, including the student. (26 students x 5 people = 130 people; Capacity of the parish with the restrictions 130)
 - The Mass will be transmitted live on the parish's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/Our-Lady-of-Peace-Catholic-Church-117305081621477/>
- Weekly in-person classes are still suspended for the time being.
- Instruction will be by Google Classroom and Zoom starting August 12.
- Google Classroom sitio: <https://classroom.google.com/c/OTU5Mjm5ODI0MTha>
- Google Classroom Class code: **[confidential]**
- **(Instructions for entering Google Classroom are attached.**
- If you don't know how to be Google Classroom, let me know as soon as possible.
- Each week two homework assignment will be posted in Google Classroom.
 - Homework #1 – Assigned on Sunday, turn in before Wednesday 10pm.
 - Homework #2 – Assigned on Wednesday, turn in before Saturday 10pm.
 - The homework will be simple. The student will need to read an article, bible passage, part of "Confirmed in the Spirit" or watch a video and then answer the question(s) in an answer of at least 200 words.
 - When I return the assignment, I'll leave each student an individual comment. I will also give them a "pass" rating. Grammar doesn't matter as much as content. The response should be a sincere reflection on the student's behalf. The student will be able to turn in his/her homework in English or Spanish.
 - **STUDENT MUST SUBMIT ALL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS TO MAKE THE CONFIRMATION.**
 - **If students do not do the homework, he/she did not complete the preparation and will not be able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.**
- **For those who are also going to make their First Communion:** They will have to learn their basic prayers: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory, Sign of the Cross and the Nicene Creed. Before September 30, you will have an appointment by Zoom to recite these prayers. Each appointment will be individual and recorded for security reasons.

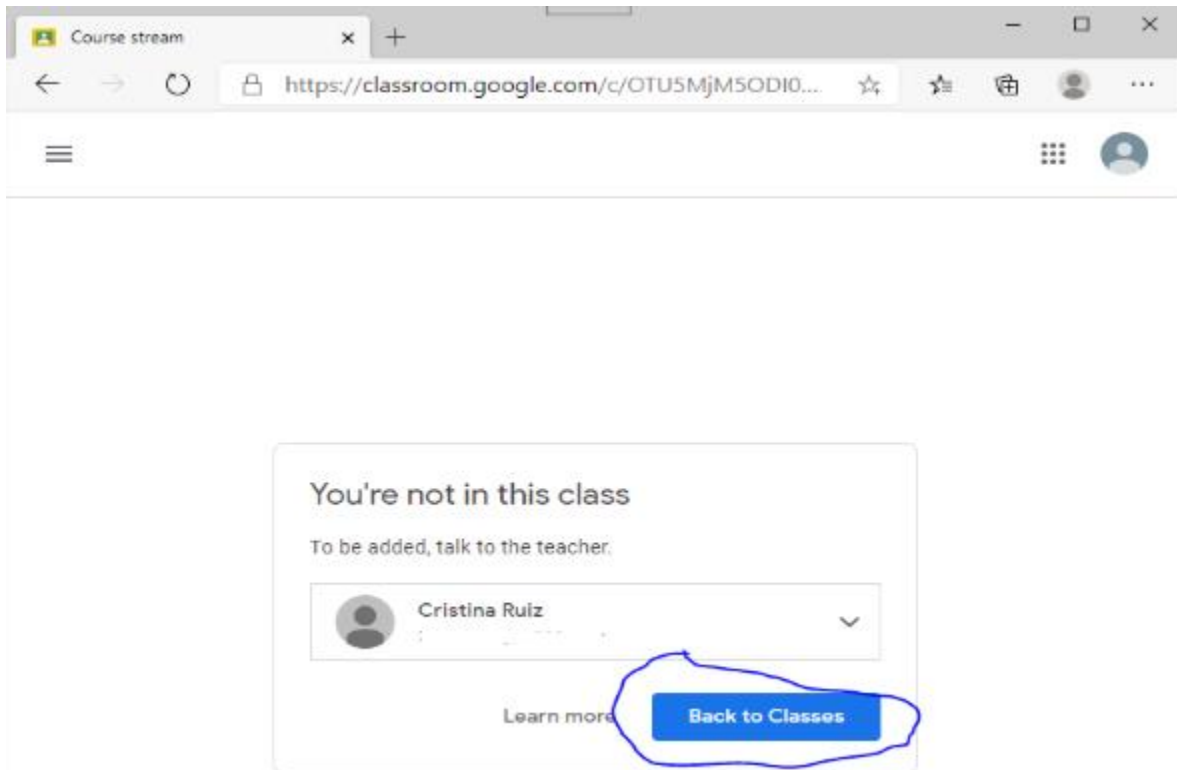
ZOOM Meetings

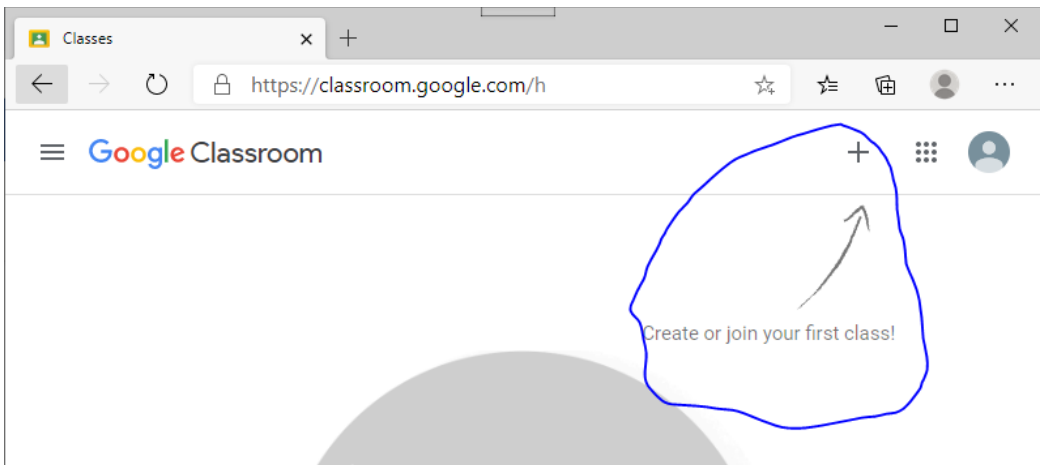
- First meeting – Wednesday, August 12; Family Meeting
 - Theme: Return to Confirmation
 - Date and time: Aug 12, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
 - Join Zoom Meeting - **[Confidential]**
- There will be at least (4) Zoom meetings. These meetings do NOT replace the homework. These meetings will be held in conjunction. The details of the meetings will be posted on Google Classroom.
- Since not all students may have secure and consistent Internet access, Zoom meetings will not be every week. But at least there will be (4) Group Zoom meetings. **All Zoom meetings will be recorded according to Diocesan regulations.**

Instructions for Google Classroom

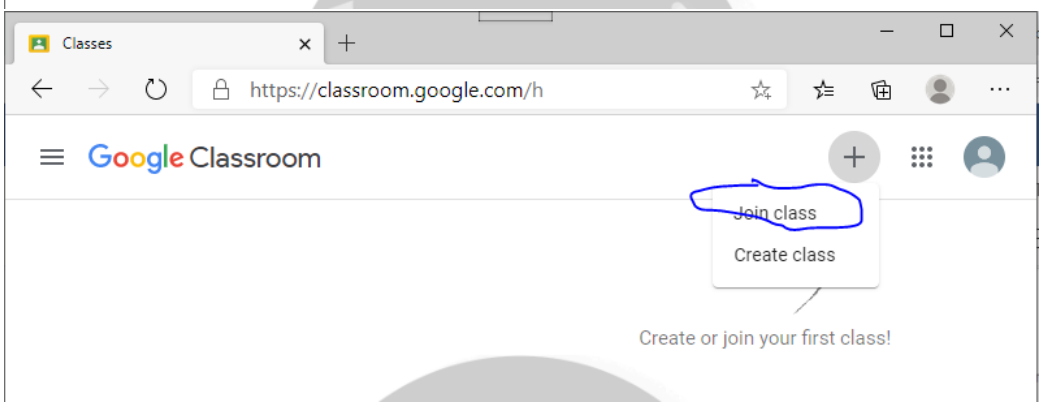
1. To access Google Classroom, your child must have an email account. Without email, your child will not have access to Google Classroom. Siblings will not be able to share accounts. If your child does not have an email or Internet, please let me know as soon as possible and we will make other arrangements.
2. Page: <https://classroom.google.com/c/OTU5MjM5ODI0MTha>
3. Class code: **[confidential]**

Please follow the steps below to enroll in the class.





2.



3.

