



## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

### **Cancellation of Parish Religious Education and Youth Ministry Programs in Response to COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)**

COVID-19 activity in New York continues to evolve and dominate the news. In an effort to decrease the spread of this virus and to protect vulnerable populations we request parishes cancel all in-person religious education and youth ministry programs beginning Saturday, March 14 until at least Monday, March 23, 2020. This includes, but is not limited to, retreats and trips. We will keep you updated if the closure should last longer. Please check our webpages at [nyfaithformation.org](http://nyfaithformation.org) and [oymny.org](http://oymny.org).

In the meantime:

- Please contact all families, catechists, youth ministry team, volunteers, and youth to inform them of the temporary closure of programs and events.
- Check with your religious education publisher to see if they have an online program and resources. Many already have these resources and some are working to provide them quickly.
- Encourage your families to take this time to share faith at home. The website [Strong Catholic Family Faith](#) has links to multiple websites and resources to help families to talk about faith and grow in prayer.
- Keep updated on the changing conditions, please visit the CDC and the NY Department of Health on a daily basis.
  - [CDC information on COVID-19](#)
  - [NY Department of Health information on COVID-19](#)
- Many families may be feeling anxiety regarding this situation. Here are a few resources you can provide for them
  - [Talking to Children About Coronavirus, A Parent Resource \(English\)](#),
  - [Hable con sus hijos sobre el COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Un recurso para padres.](#)
- Pray for all those affected by the virus and those who care for them.
  - [Pope Francis prayer to Mary](#)

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[www.oymny.org](http://www.oymny.org)    [www.nyfaithformation.org](http://www.nyfaithformation.org)  
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