**Safety Strategy for VBS 2021**

**Masks**

**Everyone, participating or volunteering with VBS, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a mask while inside**. Children will be able to take their masks off when outside and able to social distance.

**Limiting exposure to others**

Children will be grouped into a small group of 7-15 people (their crew). During whole group activities, crew members will sit together with their crew. Each crew will be distanced from other crews. Travel to each station will be done with their crew. Crews will not interact with other crews.

**Limiting sharing or touching items**

Every Vacation Bible School participant will have a drawstring back pack that they will use to carry their supplies. Back packs will contain a zip lock bag with supplies that children will need every day, (Crayons, markers, etc). Every morning at check-in the children will receive another zip lock bag with the supplies that they will need for that day. At the end of the day children will leave their backpacks at VBS, and take home the zip lock bag of the day.

To limit the number of people who touch items, we are asking that this year people who want to donate snack or other items for VBS do so using our Amazon wish list.

**Snack**

**Please send your children with a water bottle every day**.

To limit food handling, each day snacks will be served paper bag style with only individually wrapped items.

We will accommodate any allergies made known on the registration form. Labels for items served will be available to anyone who has concerns.

**Sanitization**

When crews travel, they will hand sanitize upon entering a new station. Before snack, crew members will wash their hands. Items and spaces that must be shared will be frequently sanitized. Plenty of sanitization stations will be available.

**Pick up and drop off**

Morning drop off. **Parents are expected to walk their children in**. Once inside families will check in at the check in table, pick up their bag for the day, and walk to where their child’s crew is sitting.

Afternoon pick-up. Pick-up is always more crazy than morning drop off. For safety reasons **pick-up will be carline style (more information to come)**. **There will not be a carline on Friday**; families are encouraged to attend closing Mass with their children at 11:30 am.

**Communication**

**Parents will be expected to check their email daily the week before and the week of VBS.** Since parents will not be part of the closing every day, this is how we will communicate any important information as well as share what children learned at VBS that day.

**First aid will be available in RF office.**

**Volunteer training**

Adult volunteers will be required to be VIRTUS trained and background checked. Prior to VBS all volunteers will be trained on our parish and diocesan emergency procedures.

If you have any specific or additional questions please contact Samantha Krieg by email: Samantha@stmark-parish.org