



St. Patrick's Catholic Church

319 W. Main St.
Sparta, Wisconsin 54656
Ph. (608) 269-2655

Saint Patrick's Parish
Religion Education Program
100 South 'L' Street
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-7500

August 1st, 2017

Dear REP Families;

The religious education school year will begin soon and I am excited to be a part of the Religious Education program. My name is David Schmidt and I will be serving as the Director of Religious Education. I am looking forward to meeting those I haven't had the pleasure to meet and sharing my love of Christ with all of you and your children. I have a number of new ideas and points of emphasis for the program that I will be sharing with you at the informational meeting/open house in September. I highly encourage all of you to attend. Specific topics to be discussed include:

- The Diocese of La Crosse Safe Environment Program and Training
- 2017-2018 REP program focus
- 2017-2018 REP Calendar
- REP Class Attendance Policy
- REP Service Hour Policy
- REP Mass Attendance Policy
- REP Live Christ Program

This meeting/open house will be the best and most direct way to learn about the new initiatives in the program and have any and all questions answered. Enclosed is the registration form for the 2017-2018 REP school year. We will continue to offer our early registration discount, which not only saves you a few dollars but also helps a great deal in the ordering of books, supplies, and in the setting up for fall classes.

11th grade Confirmation sessions start on Wednesday, September 6th. The REP program for K-10 will officially begin on Wednesday September 20st with an open house at 4:00 pm for grades K-6 and 6:30 pm for grades 7-10. Classes will begin the following week on September 27th.

Tuition rate for children in the Kindergarten thru 10th grade will be \$60.00 each. The 11th grade student will be \$45.00 each. If you pay in full *before September 6th* you may deduct \$5 per child. If your family is experiencing family hardship that would make it impossible for you to pay some part of the tuition costs, call the REP Office for assistance. There are several ways in which you can complete registration. You can fill out the enclosed registration form and drop it in the mail, or bring the forms

with payment to the REP Office, Rectory, or School Office. Or you can download the registration form from the Religious Education Tab on St. Patrick's Parish website at <http://stpatricksparish.weconnect.com/> and fill it out electronically. This form can be emailed to davidjschmidt@hotmail.com. Please note that when completing the registration form, a valid email address **MUST** be included. This will be the primary means by which the REP Office communicates to you.

Payment will still need to be mailed or delivered the REP Office, Rectory, or School Office. Whichever method or registration you chose payment must be received by September 6th in order to receive your discount. Your child(ren) will then be registered and ensured a place in fall classes!

Upon receipt of your child(ren) registration form you will be emailed a copy of the 2017-2018 REP Student/Parent Handbook. Please review the Handbook and all accompanying appendixes. On the last page of the Handbook you will find a signature page which acknowledges your receipt and understanding of the Handbook and all associated policies, procedures and requirements. This sheet **MUST** be printed, signed, and returned to the REP Office. If you have any questions about the Handbook please contact the REP Office or attend the open house in September.

BAPTISM CERTIFICATE: Is there a copy of your child's baptismal record on file at the REP Office? This is a **REQUIREMENT** for registration. If your child was not baptized at St. Patrick's in Sparta and you need assistance in obtaining a baptismal record, please call the REP Office. You may register your child(ren) while you are sending for the baptismal information.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: The Diocese of La Crosse requires a Safe Environment orientation for all volunteers and staff of each parish. As parents you should know more about this program. Follow the directions in the REP Handbook to view the program on line the Diocese of La Crosse website (<http://diolc.org>). If you do not have internet access, you can view the video by making arrangements with the REP Office.

AQUINAS STUDENTS: Please register as soon as possible so the REP can keep you informed regarding Confirmation preparation. There is no fee for Aquinas Students, but *they must be registered* with the REP Office. This will ensure that you receive information needed for Confirmation.

10th grade Aquinas Students are required to attend a Confirmation Retreat here or at Aquinas before Confirmation. (If you attend a NET Retreat at Aquinas, please let us know so we can adjust our records that your student has attended a Confirmation retreat.)

Please make sure the correct email and contact phone number is on the form. If there are questions we will need to contact you. Paperwork has to be done on time for our records and the diocese. Thank you all for your interest and support of St. Patrick's REP. Please call the Religious Education Office at 608-269-7500 for any concerns or questions regarding REP. Your call will be answered as soon as possible.

God's Blessings,

David J. Schmidt
Saint Patrick's Parish – Director of Religious Education

