

St.
Joseph
Church

7/27/23

Dear parents,

As we are less than two months from the start of Religious Education for the 2023-2024 school year, I have some important and exciting updates and reminders.

First, registration will be after the Masses the weekend of August 19th & 20th. You can find all of the necessary paperwork with this mailing! Please fill them out and drop it off either registration weekend or at the parish office beforehand with the fee. Speaking of fee, after looking at last years' costs, we are dropping the registration fee slightly from last year. The annual registration fee will be \$30/child and a maximum of \$75/family. This helps pay for books, materials, etc.

As with every year, I am looking for people to help make our Religious Education program run smoothly. If you would be interested in being a Catechist, a substitute, or a classroom assistant, please email or call me. We especially need a lot of classroom assistants this year! If you are interested, but hesitant or want to know more information, I am happy to set up a time to meet so you can see what the requirements are, what you will be provided, etc. before committing! This is a very rewarding way of volunteering and can also be a way for you to teach the young church of today and to learn yourself. Also, you do not have to be a parent to help in one of these roles! If you know a grandparent, a young adult, or really any other parishioners that you think would be good in one of these roles, peer encouragement can go a long way!

In regards to the schedule, we will again be meeting **Wednesdays from 6-7:15pm!** We will have a family class to kick things off on September 6th. This will be an opportunity to meet the teachers, meet any new families, and help set everyone up for a successful year! Regular classes will begin on September 13th. You will also find a couple of "At-Home Classes" on the calendar. These classes allow us to meet our required hours while giving you, as a family, some flexibility and opportunity to focus on the liturgical season. These will entail an activity to be done as a family that should last around the length of a normal class time (1.25 hours). This year's focuses will be on Hallow-tide and Advent.

An exciting opportunity that we are adding this year is the inclusion of Family Masses once a month. I won't go into it too much here, as you can view the handout included in this envelope, but it is a way for all of our school-aged youth to serve in ministries along-side their parents at Sunday Masses and to get a feel for the areas that they enjoy serving. Each month a new grade will be "in charge" of filling the roles (see the included form for the full schedule). One area that we will be entirely reliant on those who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation is the role of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. To help ensure that any parents who would like to participate in this role during their children's Masses have the opportunity, a training has been set for **August 30th @ 6pm.**

Finally, I would like to note the importance of continuing faith formation between sacraments. Our Confirmation program is laid out with the expectation that the candidates have received a solid foundation in their understanding of their Catholic faith. So, this is just a reminder that Religious Education is just as important for a second grader as it is for someone in 3rd-8th grade. After all, faith formation never really ends for any of us!

I know this is a lot of information, but there are a lot of exciting things happening this year, both new and old! If you have any questions, please email me at sjyouth@gmtel.net or call me at (563)659-3514 ext. 4.

God bless!

Jasmin Tone

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