



Religious Education Program St. Patrick's Catholic Church

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* FORMAS DE REGISTRO EN ESPAÑOL SON DISPONIBLES EN LA OFICINA EDUCACION RELIGIOSA*

June 1, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Registration has begun for next year!! I am enclosing a registration packet for the 2018/2019 Religious Education school year as well as one for this summer's wonderful Vacation Bible Camp – "Hay Day!!!"

The goal of our program is to pass on the essential elements and traditions of our Catholic faith to our children and to help them incorporate these teachings in to their daily lives. The mission is to form a *new generation of Catholics* who know and love Jesus Christ and live as his disciples in the community of the Catholic Church. Many parents believe that the only purpose of Religious Education is to prepare their children for the Sacraments of Communion or Confirmation. It is our job to inform all families that faith formation is for the child's **ENTIRE LIFE - we never stop learning about God**. Here at St. Patrick's Religious Education Program it is for grades one through Confirmation Two. **EACH YEAR** builds on the last. **EACH YEAR** is an important step in your child's growth in faith. Your children cannot become the future generation of the church without knowing what their faith is and how to live it. We ask that ALL parents enroll their children in **EVERY YEAR and EVERY GRADE not just sacrament years**.

In the Fall we will begin classes on Sunday, August 26th. Please note that registration is due **August 1st – you can turn your forms in to the Religious Education office on Sunday mornings, Miss Dillenburg will be available then.**

Important Program Information

Diocesan/Parish Policies

1. **Baptismal Records** - All new students must have a copy of their Baptismal Certificate on file in our office. This should be returned with the *Registration Form*. (For those baptized here at St. Patrick, a copy of the certificate isn't necessary.) Transfer students must also submit a *Transfer Form*, which should include an attendance record and complete information on Sacraments already received. Parents should request this form from the previous parish.
2. **Two Year Sacrament Preparation** - Students are required to complete two years of sacramental preparation before receiving the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. If your older child has not attended Second Grade, then your child **MUST** attend tutoring classes for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion (even if they completed two years of classes). This tutoring happens in the child's **SECOND** year of classes.
3. **Early Bird Discount** - Families who register and pay the entire tuition fee by August 1st will receive a discount of \$25.00 taken off their tuition for the year. Those who register late (after August 7th) will have a \$25.00 late fee added on to their tuition. Credit cards are accepted for your convenience.
4. **Parent Contract** - Parents are required to sign and return the enclosed the ***Parent Contract*** included in this packet.

5. **Websites** – Parents are encouraged to visit two websites:
 - St. Patrick's Website: **stpatsjoliet.com** contains helpful information about our program and our parish activities. It also has links to all the necessary paperwork for registration.
 - Our publisher: **Loyolapress.com** has a parent section that goes along with our book series.

6. **Communication** – Please be sure to provide us with your email address if you have one. Most of the information we distribute regarding our program is done via email. If you do not have an email account, I encourage you to get one. Yahoo and Gmail both offer free email services. We are here to serve you and your children if you have any questions, please contact me, Julie Dillenburg, at julie_a_d@yahoo.com.

7. **Family Participation** – We invite all families to participate in our parish, and give the children and your family a sense of belonging and community. Religious Education is about all of us, as members of the Church family, learning together, witnessing and growing in our faith together. In the 2017/2018 year we will be asking all families to commit to joining our parish family for at least three parish events/functions.

8. **Mass Attendance** – Parents are the primary educators of their children in all learning, including faith formation. Parents serve as role models of faith for their children at home by treating others with kindness and respect, by encouraging regular class attendance and by praying together. They are also role models in church by participating with their children at Mass on a regular basis. The Spirit of God gathers us together as God's family when we attend the celebration of the Eucharist and teaches, nourishes and strengthens us to be good followers of Jesus.

Lastly, catechists are called to **echo God's word**. I want to thank our dedicated catechists who teach Jesus' Gospel and help the children grow in faith and love of God and His holy Church. God gives us amazing grace when we answer His call to carry on the joyful mission to teach as Jesus did. Our volunteers are one of the greatest assets we have and we are very grateful for the gifts of their time, talent and treasure. **Do you feel called to be a messenger for Christ?** We welcome parents and teens to be catechists or helpers in our Religious Education and Children's Liturgy of the Word programs. If you would like to help, please email me and I will contact you regarding all the opportunities we have available.

We are honored to continue to work with you on the religious education of your children, and we look forward to seeing your family in the Fall. Please look for a letter to come home in August with further information and a yearly calendar of events. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at julie_a_d@yahoo.com or 815-727-4746.

In Christ's peace,



Miss Julie Dillenburg
Director of Religious Education

We will be offering two separate sessions on Sundays for all grades – 8:30 am and 11:00 am and Tuesday evening classes for students in Confirmation One and Two

Please sign up early to ensure placement in the session you prefer – we would like to end enrollment in each of the classes at 15 students.