

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parents,

"The Joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful **to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization** marked by this joy..." Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel)" In our Religious Education Program, we are answering St. John Paul II's call for a "New Evangelization" and Pope Francis' call to spread the joy of the Gospel. It is our hope that the children participating in our program will grow in joy and love for Jesus and their Catholic faith. This letter is intended to provide the essential information to help you prepare for the upcoming year of Religious Education.

- Classes will begin the week of September 11 and 12, 2018 and end the week of May 7 and 8, 2019. **There is a Parent Meeting the first night of classes for those enrolled in our ON-SITE program.**
- Tuition is \$60 per child, with a maximum of \$150 per family. *This year we are offering an early bird discount to parents that pay before July 1st of \$5.00 per child.* Confirmation YEAR TWO students also have an Associated Expense Fee (\$50) due at the Confirmation Information Meeting in January. **Please note that enrollments received September 11th or after have an increased tuition rate.**
- The textbooks we will be using are *Loyola Press, "Christ Our Life,"* approved for use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Grades 2, 7 and 8 have sacramental preparation books and materials.
- Missed classes (including classes that are cancelled due to weather, etc.) must be made up at home and chapter reviews brought to the next class for the teacher to check.
- Home Based Teaching is an option for families who have scheduling difficulties **except for Grades, 2, 7 and 8.** Specific guidelines for Home Based Teaching can be found in the Parent Handbook. Handbooks and textbooks will be given at the HOME BASED Parent Orientation on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 5:30 in the Church. Second Grade homeschooling can be approved if you are a full time home schooling parent using an approved curriculum.
- If your child needs to receive a sacrament that their current grade will not prepare them for please contact Deb Walsh at 891-7350 or religioused@stjudechurch.us. We offer sacramental prep for grades 4th through 12th grades.
- An Enrollment Packet is attached. A new enrollment packet must be filled out each year. Please fill out all forms and return them to the Parish Office. The Parish Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Enrollment packets are also available online.
- **If you are new to our program:** Welcome! Please make sure that you have registered in the parish, and provide a Letter of Transfer from the program previously attended along with a copy of your children's Baptism Certificates in addition to the forms found in this packet.

Have you considered sharing your Catholic faith by becoming a Religious Education teacher, substitute teacher, teacher aide or office assistant? For our program, at least 50 adults are needed. Tuition is waived for all weekly volunteers and they receive preference on class time for their children. Training, support and resources are provided. Please prayerfully consider serving the youth of our parish by becoming a catechist. A volunteer form is included in this packet. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Walsh at the Parish Office at 891-7350 or religioused@stjudechurch.us.

God bless you... and St. Jude, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Hudgins
Pastor

Deacon Dick Cronican
Director of Religious Education

Deb Walsh
Religious Ed Office Manager