

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parents,

Pope Francis states in his Apostolic Exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium"(Joy of the Gospel):

"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..."

The St. Jude Religious Education Office desires to answer 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 and packet gives essential information about the enrollment process for the 2021-2022 Religious Education Year.

- **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 child's Baptism Certificates in addition to the forms found in this packet.
- Classes begin September 7/8, 2021 and end May 10/11, 2022.
- Tuition is \$70 per child, with a maximum of \$150 per family. Tuition is due with the enrollment papers. We accept cash, check or a payment through Faith Direct. Enrollments received after Labor Day will have a \$15 per child late fee added to the tuition. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact Nancy Simms at religioused@stjudechurch.us regarding payment plans, discounts and/or scholarship options. No child is denied Religious Education due to an inability to pay tuition.
- Confirmation YEAR TWO students also have an Associated Expense Fee of \$70. First Communion students have a retreat fee of \$15.00. These fees are due later this year at the Sacrament Parent Meetings.
- Onsite Class Curriculum: *Loyola Press, "Christ Our Life,"* approved for use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Sacramental Preparation Year 2 classes have additional books and materials. Confirmation 2 classes use *Chosen by Ascension Press*.
- A homeschool option is available for parents who want to teach their children catechism at home. These families use the online platform, *My Catholic Faith Delivered*. The Religious Education Office requests students in their second year of sacramental preparation (typically grades 2 and 8) to register for onsite classes.
- Parents of older children needing sacramental preparation should contact Nancy Simms at religioused@stjudechurch.us. Sacraments have a two-year preparation period.
- An Enrollment Packet is included with this letter. Please fill out all forms and return to the Parish Office. New forms must be completed each year. Enrollment packets are also available at www.stjudechurch.us.
- The Parish Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Have you considered sharing your Catholic faith by becoming a Catechist (Religious Education teacher), Co-Catechist, or office assistant? Substitute catechists are needed as well. Our program needs about 50 adult volunteers. Tuition is waived for all weekly volunteers and they receive preference on class time for their children. 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 Nancy Simms at the Parish Office at religioused@stjudechurch.us.

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

Sincerely in Christ,
Nancy Simms
Director of Religious Education