

August, 2023

Dear Religious Ed. Families,

It's hard to believe that school has started! I am always amazed at how quickly the summer passes and September begins. Part of the problem may be that our planning for fall usually begins when school ends, which makes our time off seem so much shorter!

Enclosed is the 2023-2024 registration information for Religious Education classes that will begin on September 10, 2023. One of the major changes this year is that all Religious Education classes will be held on the St. John Bosco campus. Classes meet on Sunday, from 9:00-10:15 a.m. in the school building and entering through Door "A". Students/families, from St. Joseph, are asked to attend Mass at St. John Bosco on Sundays when RE classes are scheduled. You may place your St. Joseph Parish contribution envelope in the collection and it will be returned to your home parish. Mass times at St. John Bosco are Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays at 7:30 a.m. and also 10:30 a.m.

First Reconciliation and Confirmation will be celebrated jointly at St. John Bosco; whereas First Eucharist will be celebrated at each family's home parish.

On Sundays, if you attend the 7:30 a.m. Mass, your RE student(s) may wait in the School lobby until class time. At class dismissal, parents of younger children are to pick them up in their classroom; children in grades 3 and above you may meet you in the Church, in front of the school, or by their classroom, **It is IMPERATIVE that your child knows where you will meet them when RE classes finish.**

We expect all students to attend Mass weekly. Coming together as a community to worship is the basis for all we do. Participation at Sunday Mass needs to be a priority. We learn about being Catholic by coming together to praise and thank God for all that he has and will continue to give us.

We truly believe that our role is to support and strengthen the religious foundation that you (as their parent) have already started to instill at home. Therefore, we want to ensure that all of our efforts connect, showing we are one in the eyes of God and in the eyes of a faith-filled community. We also want to grow together in our understanding of Christ, in addition to deepening our relationships and strengthening the bonds within our parish families.

Please review the enclosed information, complete the needed form(s) and return them. **The registration form, a copy of the child's Sacramental record (unless Baptism and/or Communion took place at St. John Bosco or St. Joseph) and initial registration are due by Sept. 6, in order to generate class lists for the Catechists and to ensure that we have the needed materials.** Fees for retreats, service days, Generation of Faith Nights can be paid prior to the event. It is important that all our children attend Religious Education classes; therefore, need-based assistance and scholarships are available. Simply call my office.

I realize this change will affect, not only your Sunday schedule and your drive times, but also adjusting to a new environment, with a couple different Catechists and a few more classmates.

If you have any questions or any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our goal is to help you find a program (this one, if it works for you) or another one, if needed. On our end, we will do whatever we can to help make this transition as easy as possible.

We are looking forward to a year filled with spiritual growth, continued renewal, and ongoing grace.

Sincerely,

Vickie Blackwood
Pastoral Associate/DRE
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(My cell number is 219-951-8935, if leaving a voice message, please state your name.)