



## St. Patrick Church Religious Education

May 2023

Dear St. Patrick Religious Education Families,

Greetings in Christ. In preparing for this new Religious Education year, I am excited to continue our journey as a faith family called in faith to know, love and serve the Lord and neighbor in hope of heaven. For the 2023-2024 school year, we will continue with the 2 options for families to complete faith formation: Sunday Faith Formation and Family Faith Formation. A tentative schedule is available on the back of this form to help you choose which classes best fit your family schedule. Additionally, always feel free to contact me via email or phone and I'd be happy to help you in discerning which option will best fit your family. I am excited to continue our travels in the Catholic faith in the new school year.

Registration forms for the 2023-2024 school year should be ready on the website by May 10! You may complete your registration ONLINE by visiting our website at [www.stpatrickmchenry.org/religious-education](http://www.stpatrickmchenry.org/religious-education). If you prefer, you can also print your registration materials and mail the forms in as you have done in the past. Please print **ALL** the forms, complete the information, and return to the RE office. Please note that a Medical Release form will need to be completed for **each** child in your family. The Sacramental Record form will only need to be completed for children new to our program. I am asking for registration by **August 18** so that I can make plans for the program. Any late registrations incur an additional fee of \$10 per child, as we may need to make special orders of books and supplies.

Payment is not necessary at this time. Fees will be the same for Sunday Faith Formation and Family Faith Formation, as both programs require books and supplies to make it possible. If you are able to pay at this time, we will accept payment. Checks or cash can be mailed to the parish office or you can make credit card payment online at Give Central - <https://www.givecentral.org/location/355/event/7842>. If you are unable to pay at this time, I will follow up for payment later. If you are facing hardship and anticipate difficulty in arranging for the registration fee, please contact me by August 1. There are scholarship funds available for those that are in need. We want your children to be with us; we will work out the financials later. No family will be denied religious education due to inability to pay.

Please remember that signing your child up for Faith Formation classes is not just another activity in their life. You are signing them up for religious formation and it should take priority over other activities. Missing multiple classes or sessions, starting late or leaving early is difficult for the entire learning community. Please contact me if you think the schedule will be a problem, so we can brainstorm a solution together. Thank you for all your efforts in making faith development a priority in your household.

For planning purposes, the tentative dates for Faith Formation are on the following pages. There may be some changes based on enrollment, but I will share those changes by the beginning of September. Parent meetings for

Faith Formation and Sacramental groups will be on September 10 at 10am and September 14 at 6p m in Muldoon Hall. More details will come soon, but attendance at one of these two meetings by a parent is requested.

We are currently discerning the Sacramental Preparation classes for those seeking First Reconciliation/First Eucharist and Confirmation. Registration forms for these classes will be sent to you later in the year. Please note that these classes require a separate fee. That fee is not due at this time. A reminder to all 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade families, our Sacramental preparation programs require two years of preparation prior to reception of the sacrament. If you would like your child to celebrate with their age level classmates, they must be enrolled in classes when they are in 1<sup>st</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grades. If they do not attend that year of classes, their reception of the sacrament may be delayed.

If you are interested in volunteering please let the RE Office know. Volunteers, as both teachers, aides and facilitators in the family program, can benefit from participating in faithful education opportunities, growing through teaching the children, and receiving reduced tuition for religious education. It is a wonderful way to serve our parish, and I have always enjoyed being part of the comradery of this ministry within our Church. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the RE office at 815-385-2959 or [reoffice@stpatrickmchenry.org](mailto:reoffice@stpatrickmchenry.org).

I thank you for your understanding, as some of our plans may change as we get closer to the new year. Please do complete your registration as soon as you are able to allow us to plan appropriately for the fall.

In God's Love and Care-

Lisa Johnson  
Director of Religious Education

### **Tentative Meeting Dates for 2023-24 Faith Formation Year**

Parent meetings: September 10, 10am or September 14 at 6pm

#### Sunday Faith Formation Class Dates

September 17, and 24  
October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29  
November 5, 12, and 26 (No 19)  
December 3, 10, and 17 (No 24 or 31)  
January 7, 14, and 21 (No 28)  
February 4, 11, 18, and 25  
March 3, 10, and 17 (No 24 or 31)  
April 7, 14, 21, and 28  
May 5 and 12

#### Family Faith Formation Session Dates

September 28  
October 12 and 26  
November 9 and 30  
December 14  
January 12 and 26  
February 8 and 22  
March 14  
April 11 and 25  
May 9