



# St. John the Apostle Catholic Church

2600 West Central Avenue — Minot, North Dakota 58701 — (701) 839-7076

August 22, 2022

Dear Parent(s),

Greetings in the Lord! I hope that your summer has been a most blessed time for you and your children.

The last year of Religious Education and formation was a new experience for us, and we continue to discern what is best for the St. John Catholic Church religious education program i.e., **what is best for the families and children of our parish.** I felt that last year, although it was different, it went well. After meeting with the parents of five families, they affirmed that it helped them also. I am grateful to all of you for your participation in the Faith Formation last year and are ready for this year! Remember, **You are the most capable teachers of the Faith for your children, by living and practicing your faith with your children.**

Thus, in 2022-2023 religious education will be slightly different this year, in a good way! This new way will be more about what Jesus so often talks about in the Gospels, **“Faith is a matter of the heart”**. I will meet one hour with parents on Wednesdays to have a 30-minute conference / retreat style formation using materials from the **St. Augustine institute’s Formed.org** followed by time for sharing and discussion about the material. The time of sharing and getting to know one another better is invaluable for all our faith journeys, we need a community to learn and live our religion.

At the same time the children will have a similar age-appropriate session on the faith. The 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday with 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents; The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday with 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents; The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade parents; The 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday will be available for use of particular needs, such as 1<sup>st</sup> communion or confirmation classes; or to have a movie, similar to *the Chosen series*, for all families. By forming the parents and supporting them to teach their children the whole parish will learn together and encourage each other in living the faith.

We will be following the recommendation set by the Diocese of Bismarck that each parish require a fee for their Religious Education Program. The fee will remain the same as previously; \$50 a child with a maximum of \$150 per family. If your child/children were registered in our Religious Education program in 2021-2022, you must register them again for the 2022-2023 Religious Education year. Please complete the registration form enclosed with this letter. Return the registration form along with your payment to the church or mail it to the above address by September 7, 2022. Your prompt attention is greatly appreciated for us to adequately prepare for this year’s program. We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation.

We are also enclosing a calendar for the 2022-2023 Religious Education year. If you have any questions or concerns about the above information, please contact either Fr. Richter or Monica at 839-7076

Let us pray for each other and be confident in God’s abundant help for each of us to fulfill our vocations. **I encourage you to work together with other families who have children the same age as yours. So, we are planning to share contact information of student’s parents for each class. If any of you have a concern about sharing your contact info with other parents let us know.** I respect you! My desire is for what is best for you and your children. May this year foster a genuine love for each other as dear friends.

Sincerely your Pastor,

Fr. David A. Richter

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work”

