

September 21, 2020

Dear St. Michael Religious Education Parents,

Hello! My name is Cary Anderson and I am the new Coordinator of Youth Ministry here at St. Michael. We are eager to start, and this letter serves to inform you of how to register and what to expect for the upcoming year. This letter is specifically intended for all families with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade children who are eligible for Religious Education at St. Michael Parish. Whether you have children who are new to the program or have a returning student, we hope you are considering registering here this fall 2020/21. Included in this email, you will find a copy of the registration or you may register online on the [stmichaelgl.org](http://stmichaelgl.org) website.

Sarah Fuller and Rachel Schafer will be serving as your child's teachers this year. This will be a combined class of both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. We are here to support you in your journey as a parent who seeks to raise their children in a faith that reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to empower parents as the primary educators of your child's faith and to help you fulfill the baptismal promise you made when you had your child/children baptized. This mission is the reason for our Religious Education classes and indeed all our programs for children and teens.

**This year, we are offering in person religious education classes.**

- Sunday evenings from 6-7:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

**First class Oct. 4 at 6 pm.** Plan to attend a brief informational meeting at the start in the sanctuary for parents and youth. This will allow for you to meet Sarah and Rachel, who can answer any questions you may have. Please remember to wear a mask.

The curriculum will be closely following the series called *Theology of the Body for Teens* by Ascension Press and then a unit on Prayer, developed by Thane and Pat Belen. (The curricula follow a two-year cycle: this year *Theology of the Body and Prayer*, next year *Altaration* from Ascension Press and *Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues* from Bishop Barron).

- Opportunities are planned for the middle schoolers to meet with the Youth Group on selected Sundays throughout the year.

The schedule for the 2020-2021 school year is attached to this this email for your planning purposes.

## REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS:

Please find below the links for online registration and payment processing. Please register as soon as possible! It is greatly appreciated as it helps us determine class sizes and resources. **[Click here to register.](#)**

If you prefer paper registration, hard copies and a downloadable form is available. Registration forms and payments may be made online, mailed or dropped off to the parish office or placed in the Sunday collection basket. Regular Parish Office hours are Monday- Friday 8:30 am-4:00 pm. **Payment is encouraged upon registration please.** Monthly statements will be emailed. We never want the cost to deter registration, so periodic payments may be made, or other options are available if experiencing financial strain due to Covid-19. Please contact Cary Anderson for support with this.

The safety of the children and all our volunteers is essential as we return to Religious Education this fall. The RE programs will be utilizing the MI Safe Schools plan, CDC requirements, Barry-Eaton District Health Department, and the Diocese of Lansing Guidelines. Please See the attached St. Michael Religious Education Formation COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan for instructions and information.

*Parents are required to sign and return the attached agreement relating to screening your child for Covid-19. Please have your child bring a signed copy of the agreement when they arrive on October 4. Health screenings must be completed each week.*

For questions and concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, Cary Anderson at the information below. We pray for a safe return to our religious education classes and look forward to seeing everyone in October!

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