

May 17, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is time again to register your child or children in our Religious Education Program for the 2021-2022 year. We are looking forward to in-class attendance for all our students this coming September. Our Religious Education Program is the perfect place to continue to learn how to live a life of discipleship. We emphasize Scripture, prayer, and Church Tradition nurturing children every step of the way on their journey to becoming disciples of Jesus which leads them into a lasting love for the Church.

Please fill out the enclosed registration form for the 2021-2022 Catechetical year and return it to the Rectory by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Registration forms are also available on our website – [www.icworc.com](http://www.icworc.com). All children are welcome to attend Religious Education classes and will not be denied participation due to financial hardship. Enclosed you will also find the 2021-2022 Catechetical Calendar and a grade level inventory for your child. Please complete the paper with your child and bring the completed inventory to the first class.

Our Religious Education program for students in Kindergarten through 11<sup>th</sup> grade will begin Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The first class for Confirmation students will take place on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. All parents/guardians and children meet together in the Father Connors Center for the Opening of the Year. We will start with a Prayer Service and introduce our Religious Education teachers. The catechists, then, will lead the children to their classrooms. The parents/guardians will continue with an orientation of our Religious Education program. Parents/guardians please plan to stay for the entire class time.

We want to thank our dedicated parents & catechists who teach our Catholic Faith and help the children grow in their faith & love of God and his Church. God gives us amazing grace when we answer God's call to carry on the joyful mission to teach as Jesus did. Our volunteers are one of our greatest assets and we are very grateful for the gift of their dedication, their time and talent. They enrich our entire parish. We welcome more of our parents and guardians to be catechists or assistants in our Religious Education program. If you want to assist, please call me. More assistance is always needed to ensure a continuity of programs that emphasize solid Catholic teaching, spiritual enrichment, liturgy and service. Please consider sharing your time, talent and treasure in this important ministry.

Religious Education concerns all of us, as members of the Church, learning together, witnessing & growing in our faith together, and especially attending the holy Mass as one Body of Christ. The Spirit of God gathers us together as God's family when we attend Religious Education and the celebration of the Eucharist it teaches, nourishes and strengthens us to be good followers of Jesus. In Mass, hearing the words "The Mass is ended, go in peace" we are sent forth instructed by the Word of God & nourished by the Bread of Life to announce the Good News of the Lord and glorify Christ Jesus by our lives. We remind you that Sunday Mass attendance is where our Catholic faith begins. Our faith is centered in the celebration of the Eucharist and the Word of God.

We look forward to teaching the Catholic faith to your child in a classroom setting but remember that you as parents are the first teachers of the Catholic faith to your children at home. If you are not already doing so, one way to help develop their faith is through daily prayer with them. Prayer at meals and pointing to God's creation are some wonderful ways of introducing God to your child.

Sincerely,  
Mary Sycks  
Administrator of Religious Education  
Immaculate Conception Parish  
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