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July 1, 2021

Dear Parents,

It's time to register your child for our 2021-2022 faith formation program. We look forward to accompanying St. Joseph's youth on their faith journey.

We hope to hold classes in person this year – with safety precautions in place as per Diocesan guidelines. When these guidelines are released, we'll share with you what our safety measures will look like. We remain dedicated to providing a safe, faith-filled experience for each student.

Registration materials are on our website (www.stjchurch.org/formation/form-center) and available at the parish office (Monday-Thursday: 9:30am-12:30pm, 1:30pm-4:30pm; or Friday: 9:30am-1:00pm). **Registration forms and fees are due by August 6, 2021.** Please note: All registrations received after August 6th will be assessed a \$20 late fee per child.

Class sizes are limited by Diocesan adult to child ratios and are filled on a first come/first serve basis. Days and times for faith formation classes are:

- *Grades 1, 2, 4 and 5 – Sunday (10-10:45am), Monday (5-5:45pm), Tuesday (5-5:45pm)
- Grade 3 – Sunday (10-10:45am), Monday (5-5:45pm) – there is no 3rd grade class on Tuesdays
- Faith Formation II – Tuesday (5-5:45pm)
- RCI for Youth -- day and time are arranged in conjunction with families
- Confirmation I and II -- Wednesday (7-8:30pm)
- Middle School Youth Group – Thursday (6:30-8pm)
- High School Youth Group – Thursday (7-8:30pm)

*Grades 1, 2, 4 and 5 – although we hope to offer classes on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays – class availability is dependent on volunteer catechists and minimum class sizes. If we need to combine classes, we'll be in touch.

During the school year, children (ages 4-10) are invited to join us for Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00am Mass on Sundays. Fr. Roy or Fr. Tyler will invite the children to the front of the sanctuary for dismissal after the opening prayer. The children will be led to the old parish hall by our catechists to gather as a community and listen to the Word of God in a format they can understand. This is an opportunity for them to learn, grow, and share their knowledge of God's Word. Children will be returned to their families after the homily. No registration necessary. Note – we will not be offering a preschool/kinder class this year.

The sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are received in the third grade. Preparation for these sacraments is a two year class (beginning in second grade). There are three retreats – please mark your calendars:

Parent Retreat – September 25, 2021
First Reconciliation Retreat – October 23, 2021
First Communion Retreat – March 12, 2022

Faith Formation classes are available for children in grades 4 and higher who have been Baptized, but have not received First Communion. This is a two year program. Please contact the office for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCI) for Youth classes are available for children ages 7 and up who have yet to be Baptized. Please contact the Faith Formation office for more information.

Confirmation is a two year program for high school students who are ready to continue their journey of faith. Sessions are held on weekday evenings approximately once a month from August through June. There are also retreats as well as community service. Please mark your calendars:

Parent Retreat for Confirmation I parents – September 25, 2021
Confirmation I Teen Retreat – November 6, 2021
Confirmation II Teen Retreat – August 14-15, 2021

Teens are invited to join our youth group (POP's Place Jr. for grades 6-8 and POP's Place for grades 9-12). Teens may join at any time during the year and there are no fees. Gatherings are once or twice a month on Thursday nights. To attend, please submit (or bring along to your first meeting) your registration form. Questions – contact our Youth Group Leader, Christina Brigantino at cbrigantino@stjchurch.org. All are welcome!

St. Joseph's faith formation program is volunteer based. If you are interested in sharing your love of our Catholic faith and enjoy working with young people, please consider joining this important ministry. If you can help, please fill out the volunteer information on page 2 of the registration form. All adults who are assisting with children must be fingerprinted by the Diocese and complete an online training program. Contact our office for Safe Environment forms and information. If you are a catechist in your child's class, please deduct \$30 from the fees for that child. Thank you for volunteering in our parish.

St. Joseph's is committed to making reasonable accommodations for learners with special needs. Please contact us to see how we can best help your child.

If you are registering a child for the first time, please provide a copy of the child's Baptism and First Communion certificates (as applicable) with completed registration forms.

We communicate with families via email. Please provide your family email address (and candidate email address for Confirmation I and II) on your registration form.

If you are not currently registered as parishioners at St. Joseph's Church and wish to do so, a parish registration form can be found at www.stjchurch.org/formation/form-center.

Return the completed packet with the applicable fees to the parish office (15 Railroad Avenue) or mail to St. Joseph's Church, P.O. Box 7158, Spreckels, CA 93962-7158. You may also scan/email to mcallahan@stjchurch.org or fax (831-455-9357). Additionally, we have a secure drop box (to the right of main door) for registrations brought after hours.

Faith formation fees can be paid:

- Online (credit or debit card) – you can either visit our secure website <https://stjchurch.org/> and click the 'Donate Online' button or use your smart phone and the QR code at the top of this letter. Input amount under 'Faith Formation Classes' and note your child's name(s) on the accompanying memo line.
- In person, via our secure drop box or mail to St. Joseph's Church, P.O. Box 7158, Spreckels, CA 93962 (attn: Faith Formation).

If you are experiencing a financial hardship, please contact Marge Callahan at 455-8720 for financial aid information.

Please read the weekly church bulletin or visit our website for class schedules and other important Faith Formation information. Registered students will be emailed a calendar of classes later this summer (grades 1-5, Faith Formation II and Children's Liturgy of the Word will start the week of September 12, Confirmation I will start in September, Confirmation II will start in August and youth group starts back up in September) .

May your family have a wonderful summer! We look forward to seeing you and instructing your child in our Catholic faith in the fall. May God continue to bless us with all that we need.

Blessings,



Carrie Aragon
Director of Faith Formation