

St. Pius X Religious Education 2019-2020

Monday August 5, 2019

Dear St. Pius X Religious Education Families,

I'm excited for another year at Saint Pius X and continuing to get to know all of you. I've attached our calendar for the year and registration forms. This letter will provide an overview of the program for the 2019-2020 St. Pius X Religious Education program (grades 1-9).

We will continue our partnership with Holy Family St. Lawrence and their religious education program. John McMahon, the Faith Formation Director at HFSL, is the Confirmation Coordinator for both HSFL and SPX. His email is john.mcmahon@essexcatholic.org John and I will be working closely to coordinate and continue to make the Religious Education programs the best they can be. For the year ahead, you can expect:

- Our Elementary Programs (grades 1-5) will remain separate - SPX will meet on Monday afternoons 3:30-5:00pm and HFSL will be held on Sunday mornings. Families are encouraged to register with whichever program best fits their schedule and to stick with it for the duration of the program year.
- Our Middle School Programs will be combining this year. All 6th and 7th graders will be meeting on Monday evenings at SPX 6:30-8:00pm.
- Our Confirmation Programs (grades 8 & 9) will have joint classes on Sunday evenings at SPX 5:00-6:30pm

The calendars for the SPX year are attached, classes will be starting the week of September 29th for all grades.

We will be having a **Meet Your Teacher** day during Osteria di Sarto on Sunday, September 29, 2019. We strongly encourage everyone to be at this Mass and Osteria so that we can all come together to start off the year strong.

Please fill out the attached Religious Education registration form for the 2019-2020 year. All families are asked to fill out a new one every year. If your child

is in 1st, 2nd, 8th, or 9th grade please be sure to send a copy of their baptismal certificate as well. Completed forms should be returned to the Religious Education Office by Friday, August 30). Checks can be made out to St. Pius X.

The bus forms for the schools will be available as soon as I confirm dates with the company, but please fill out a bus request form and return to me so that we have an accurate count of who would like to ride the buses.

Please return forms to:

St. Pius X Parish
ATTENTION EMMA GOFF
20 Jericho Road
Essex VT 05452

Critical Information for Grades 1-9:

- Our life as a Church is centered around community and, most importantly, our Sunday worship of the Liturgy. We assume that all parents /guardians have decided to raise their children in the Roman Catholic Church. Based on this assumption , it is extremely important that you role model for them the value of **regular Mass attendance**.
- In keeping with Diocesan Safe Environment requirements (created by the US Conference of Bishops), all students must be escorted to their class by their parent /guardian and signed in before class begins and picked up at its conclusion.
- Sacramental preparation for Eucharist (& Reconciliation) encompasses grades 1-2.
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation spans Grades 8-9 & presumes successful completion of the Catechism spanning grades 1-7.
- **Second, Eighth, and Ninth grade students** are required to submit a copy of their **Baptismal Certificate** to complete the registration process –this requirement applies to all children (even children that have been baptized here).
- Tuition is the same for all grades --\$45 per child. However, there is an additional \$75.00 Retreat Fee for 8-9th graders to help cover retreat expenses. Scholarships are always available. There is a family max of \$120 but please note this does not include the retreat fee.

Safety

I want to stress how important the safety of your child is to me personally as well as to our Catechists. Our parish's Safe Environment Program for Children & Youth strives to create a culture of safety that emphasizes proper screening, education, & vigilance. Here are the essentials:

- All church staff & volunteers that work with children/ youth are screened through a criminal background check process
- All staff & volunteers read & adhere to the Minister's Code of Behavioral Conduct
- An on-line, safety training, entitled "Safe & Sacred" for all catechists & interested parents on how to protect children /youth from pedophiles.
- A mailing to families explaining the basic safety guidelines for children/ youth.
- A yearly, age-appropriate class called **Circle of Grace** for the kids covering safety issues to be held during religious education class times for all grades.
- A billboard maintained at the Parish Center posting articles on a variety of safety topics.

I encourage you to help make all of our parish activities as safe as possible by getting involved.

There is also a parish registration form attached, we are updating our parish database and would appreciate your help. Please fill this out and return with your Religious Education registration form.

Lastly, as many of you already know I am expecting our first baby at the beginning of November. I will be taking six weeks of maternity leave and there will be people helping out during my time away and I'll be sure to send you their contact information before then.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions!

Blessings,

Emma Goff

802-878-1182 emma.goff@essexcatholic.org