



ST. JAMES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FACT SHEET

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JERRY WILLIAMS, OFFICE AID

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CCD) CLASSES

- CONDUCTED SUNDAY 9:15 TO 10:45 SEPTEMBER THROUGH APRIL OR HOME SCHOOL WITH ONLINE TESTING. COST IS \$65 FOR ONE CHILD, \$90 FOR 2, \$115 FOR 3 and \$140 for 4. FEES CAN BE REDUCED OR WAIVED UPON REQUEST FOR THOSE IN FINANCIAL NEED.
- ENROLLMENT IN A RELIGIOUS ED PROGRAM OR CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS REQUIRED FOR 1ST THROUGH 8TH GRADERS.
- OPTIONAL PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE DURING THE SUNDAY MORNING SESSIONS.
- REGISTRATION BEGINS IN APRIL FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE JUNE 1. REGISTRATION AFTER SUNDAY MASSES IS CONDUCTED IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY OR YOU CAN DOWNLOAD A REGISTRATION FORM FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE OR CONTACT THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.
- GRADES 5-8 ALSO COVER THE *CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE* PROGRAM WITH PERSONAL SAFETY LESSONS AND GRADE 1, 3 AND 4 COVER PERSONAL SAFETY LESSONS. A PARENT MEETING IS CONDUCTED EACH FALL TO FAMILIARIZE PARENTS WITH THE PROGRAM.
- CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ARE WELCOME IN OUR PROGRAM.

SACRAMENTAL PREP

- FIRST PENANCE IS CONDUCTED DURING LENT. PREPARATION IS DONE AS PART OF THE REGULAR SUNDAY CCD CLASSES OR IN THE SJS RELIGION CLASS FOR 2ND GRADERS.
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IS CONDUCTED IN SMALL GROUPS AT THE REGULAR SUNDAY MASSES IN THE EASTER SEASON. PREPARATION IS DONE THROUGH THE REGULAR SUNDAY CCD CLASSES OR IN THE SJS RELIGION CLASS FOR 2ND GRADERS AND THROUGH A JESUS DAY RETREAT. TWO YEARS OF FORMAL CATECHESIS ARE REQUIRED.
- CONFIRMATION IS IN THE SPRING OF 8TH GRADE THIS YEAR, CHANGING TO THE FALL OF THE 9TH GRADE YEAR IN 2021. THE DATE IS SCHEDULED BY THE BISHOP, FOR THE SPRING SOMETIME BETWEEN THE 1ST OF FEBRUARY AND END OF MAY, AND THE FALL BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER. PREPARATION IS DONE THROUGH A MEETING WITH CANDIDATES AND THEIR PARENTS IN MAY OF 7TH GRADE, AND FALL OF THE 8TH GRADE YEAR. A ONE DAY PREP SESSION OR PREP DURING THE SJS RELIGION CLASS, SUGGESTED SERVICE HOURS AND A RETREAT.

- ALL CATECHESIS FOR GRADES 1-8 SHOULD BE COMPLETE WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH GRADES.
- CHILDREN WHO FALL OUTSIDE THE NORMAL AGE RANGE (2ND AND 8TH GRADE) FOR THE SACRAMENTS LISTED ABOVE CAN BE PREPARED BY A TUTOR AND, IF NECESSARY, RECEIVE MAKE UP CATECHESIS.
- ALL BAPTIZED PERSONS ARE DESERVING OF FULL INITIATION INTO THE CHURCH THROUGH CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION OF THE EUCHARIST WITH ADEQUATE PREPARATION.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- CHILDREN IN 4 YEAR OLD PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 5TH GRADE IN OUR PARISH AND SCHOOL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OUR VBS HELD IN JULY.
- TEENS IN 6TH GRADE AND UP AND ADULTS ARE WELCOME AS VOLUNTEERS.
- REGISTRATION IS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH CCD REGISTRATION IN THE SPRING AND FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE OR OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE.
- REGISTRATION IS OPENED TO THE COMMUNITY ON JUNE 1.

ADULT EDUCATION

- THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE CONDUCTS A CATECHIST CERTIFICATION CLASS EACH FALL.
- VARIOUS OTHER ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE PRESENTED SUCH AS THE *CATHOLICISM* SERIES AND *VATICAN II* SERIES AS WELL AS GUEST SPEAKERS, BIBLE STUDY, AND VARIOUS OTHER ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

THIS POLICY IN THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH REQUIRES THAT ALL VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARISH COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:

- DIOCESAN DATABASE APPLICATION WITH CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND REVIEW OF THE PASTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND MANDATORY REPORTING LAW
- CHILD ABUSE HISTORY CLEARANCE THROUGH CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES
- PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN (CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS PROGRAM)
- CATECHIST MUST ALSO SIGN A CARDINAL'S CLAUSE