



1679 1867

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

220 Church Street

St. Joseph, MI 49085

Phone (269) 983-1575 Fax (269) 983-7798

September 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Families in our Religious Education Program,

As our summer quickly draws to a close, registration time for Religious Education is upon us again! It is a great blessing for us and for our catechists to be able to work with you and support you in your decision to raise your children in our beautiful Catholic faith. As we prepare for this fall still facing the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to do our best to provide you and your children with a robust curriculum and personal support in the faith while still keeping you and our catechists safe. Taking all of these factors and our sweeping protocol changes into consideration, we have decided that it is best for all parties involved to transition to a hybrid system of education for this school year.

Our classes will take place online, with just a small number of engaging in-person sessions throughout the school year to still give our students some chance to have face time with one another and with their teachers and priests and to help tie the rest of the education together, (when it is fully safe to do so). Knowing the additional burden that online courses place on you as the parents, we will also do our best to continue to remain in close contact with you to provide you with the support needed to guide your children as they learn our faith. The Catholic Church holds up parents as the first teachers of their children in the faith. Please never underestimate the impact you have and the dignity of the role God has given you in the lives of your children, and know that you aren't doing this alone! We will be here to assist you as you assist your children to continue to grow into the saints that God has called each of them to be!

Please register and come join us this year. The preparation program for First Communion and Confirmation both are required two-year programs, but students are certainly encouraged and welcomed to attend with us through elementary and middle school to offer support in their faith lives. Please note that there will be a nominal fee for our classes. We pride ourselves in being able to keep that fee low, both through the work of volunteers as well as through parish support and judicious reuse of resources. The fee is a little higher for the seventh and eighth-grade programs to offset the cost of the student retreat and additional class resources as they prepare to receive the sacrament of confirmation. Please let us know if you have any questions.

We are very excited to be working with you and your family. Together, we can do our part by God's grace to help raise the next generations of leaders and saints in our Church!

In Christ,

Fr. James Adams and Fr. Thomas McNally

Co-Pastors of St. Joseph and SS. John & Bernard Parishes