



St. Patrick Church
Religious Education Office

May 2021

Dear St. Patrick Religious Education Families,

In preparing for this new Religious Education year, I hope that I find your family well and safe. I also am optimistic for our 2021-2022 year will offer new opportunities for our families to grow in Faith and in Fellowship. For those of you who were here with us in the past, first, I thank you for your patience and support through last year. In the upcoming year, our hope is that the condition in our world will continue to improve and that our mitigations will continue to allow us to gather. At this time, we have planned to move back towards weekly classes for our children and monthly classes for our Sacramental families. We are also beginning St. Patrick Family Meetings monthly in order to give us time to enjoy the rich Traditions of our Church as a family and give us time to gather as a parish in a gathering of parents and children united in the goal of passing our faith to the next generation.

Registration forms for the 2021-2022 school year are ready! You may complete your registration ONLINE this year by visiting our website at www.stpatrickmchenry.org/religious-education. If you prefer, you can also print your registration materials and mail the forms in as you have done in the past. Please print **ALL** the forms, complete the information, and return to the RE office. Please note that a Medical Release form will need to be completed for **each** child in your family. The Sacramental Record form will only need to be completed for children new to our program. New this year is a family covenant form, which we ask to be returned to the parish office with signatures when you can. I am asking for registration by **August 15** so that I can make plans for the program. Any late registrations incur an additional fee of \$10 per child, as we may need to make special orders of books and supplies.

Payment is not necessary at this time. If you are able to pay at this time, we will accept payment. Checks or cash can be mailed to the parish office or you can make credit card payment online at Give Central - <https://www.givecentral.org/location/355/event/7842>. If you are unable to pay at this time, I will follow up for payment later. If you are facing hardship and anticipate difficulty in arranging for the registration fee, please contact me by August 1. There are scholarship funds available for those that are in need. We want your children to be with us; we will work out the financials later. No family will be denied religious education due to inability to pay.

Please remember that signing your child up for RE classes is not just another activity in their life. You are signing them up for religious formation and it should take priority over other activities. Missing multiple classes, starting late or leaving early is difficult for the student and the teacher. In the past we have had many conflicts with scouts, sports, etc. being at the same time. Thank you for all your efforts to prepare your child in our faith.

For planning purposes, the first week of RE classes will be September 19. Parent meetings for Religious Education and Sacramental groups will be on September 13 and September 15 at 7pm. These meetings will be held both on Zoom and in person. More details will come soon, but attendance at one of these two evenings by a parent is requested.

We are currently discerning the Sacramental Preparation classes for those seeking First Reconciliation/First Eucharist and Confirmation. Registration forms for these classes will be sent to you later in the year. Please note that these classes require a separate fee. That fee is not due at this time. A reminder to all 1st grade and 7th grade families, our Sacramental preparation programs require two years of preparation prior to reception of the sacrament. If you would like your child to celebrate with their age level classmates, they must be

enrolled in classes when they are in 1st or 7th grades. If they do not attend that year of classes, their reception of the sacrament may be delayed.

If you are interested in volunteering please let the RE Office know. Volunteers, as both teachers and aides, can benefit from participating in faithful education opportunities, growing through teaching the children, and receiving reduced tuition for religious education. It is a wonderful way to serve our parish, and I have always enjoyed being part of the comradery of this ministry within our Church. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the RE office at 815-385-2959 or reoffice@stpatrickmchenry.org.

I thank you for your understanding, as some of our plans may change as we get closer to the new year. Please do complete your registration as soon as you are able to allow us to plan appropriately, with health and safety of all our families in mind, for the fall.

In God's Love and Care-

Lisa Johnson
Director of Religious Education