

Saint John the Evangelist Church

317 First Street, Dunellen, NJ 08812 • (732) 968-2621

June 29, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Enclosed is information regarding Whole Community Catechesis Registration for the 2020-2021 school year. I apologize for the delay. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Registration Submission/Early Registration Discount

Registration Forms should be placed in an envelope marked Catechesis Registration and returned NO LATER THAN Sunday July 19th to receive a \$30 discount and best chance of requested Session placement. It can be: 1) dropped in the collection basket at any Mass, 2) Dropped through the “Drop Off” slot in the Parish Center Door at ANYTIME, so that it is **INSIDE** the door of the Parish Center or 3) Pay online, then scan and email both forms to me, Stjohnpcl@gmail.com.

Payment is due in full at the time of registration. You can pay by personal check or credit card/ACH by using our online giving program found on our parish website www.stjohnsdunellen.org under “Donate”, select “Religious Education Tuition” from the drop down menu.

Financial Assistance

No one will be denied a Religious Education for financial reasons. If you have financial concerns, please contact me in the Office of Catechesis ASAP for confidential financial assistance PRIOR TO JULY 19, 2020. All requests for financial assistance must be received by July 19th.

Late Fee

Registration received after August 16th will be charged a \$75 late fee.

Are You New to Our Program?

Those new to our program must provide a copy of their child’s Baptismal Certificate upon registration. If your child has received the sacraments of First Reconciliation and/or First Holy Communion in another parish, you must additionally provide copies of those certificates at the time of registration. All children transferring from programs in other parishes must also provide documentation from their previous parish stating their level of completion. This is common practice in Religious Ed offices and your former parish will be able to provide you with a letter of completion/transfer. All families looking to enroll must be registered members of St. John the Evangelist Parish. If there is a conflict, please contact me to discuss.

Program Offerings:

Baptized Children should be enrolled each year in a formal Catechesis Program from Grades 1 through 8. **Parents of unbaptized children in Grades 1 – 8 should contact me directly. Parents of children who have received First Holy Communion and stopped taking catechism classes should also contact me directly.**

Family Catechesis; Grades 1-7

Family Catechesis is for families with children in grades 1-7. It meets one time per month from 6PM-8PM. A calendar will be provided to you later in the summer, including making updates for inclement weather. We offer an option of Monday **OR** Tuesday; due to space constraints you will not be able to switch back and forth. **At least one parent or guardian per family must attend each session.** Under Family Catechesis session selection please indicate the name(s) of those adults who will be attending on a regular basis (eg. 95% of the time). Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate siblings not enrolled in our sessions, especially if we are social distancing; please be prepared to make babysitting arrangements. If this is a major issue, please contact me.

Grade 8; Confirmation

Due to the special nature of our Confirmation Program, children in Grade 8 will meet a minimum of twice per month on Sundays immediately following the 10:30AM Mass until 1:00PM. Except for several family meetings, parents and guardians of 8th graders are **not required** to attend these sessions with their children.

Foundational Catechesis; Catching Up with Jesus

“Foundational Catechesis; Catching Up with Jesus” is ONLY for baptized child(ren) (grades 3 – 7) **who have never been enrolled** in a formal Religious Education program **OR** have previously been enrolled in a formal program, but have only completed year one of the required two years of Sacramental Preparation. Children in this program have not yet received First Penance and/or First Holy Communion. (The traditional age in the United States for First Communion is Grade 2). This program will meet TWO times per month; Time, Days of the week and dates, to be determined.

Session Placement

In light of the pandemic there are still several things that are up in the air, however, our goal is to give you the strongest possible program to help your family grow in the Catholic Faith. Historically our program met on the first Monday and Tuesday of each month. If the need for social distancing continues, which will most likely be the case, we will have to meet in smaller numbers and or have some virtual meetings. Though I have several potential plans, I will not be able to put a solid plan in place until I have full registration numbers. When filling out your Registration Form please select your preference between Monday and Tuesday but also let me know if you would be interested in Sunday during the day if that were an option. Once I have our registration numbers, I will be able to determine when and how often we will plan to meet and if certain sessions might be virtual.

I will do my best to honor your request for Family Catechesis session placement. However, priority will be given based on when registration is received. Please submit your registration form by July 19th since late registration forms will be placed in whichever session is available at that time.

Sacrament Preparation

Sacrament Preparation for children is a two-year process for baptized Catholics no matter the age or grade level of the child. This is a Diocesan requirement. At St. John's, First Holy Communion Preparation begins in 1st grade, continues in 2nd grade, the children receive their First Reconciliation mid-year and First Holy Communion at the end of 2nd grade. Confirmation preparation begins in 7th grade, continues in 8th grade and the children receive their Confirmation at the end of 8th grade. The important nature of this preparation may require extra dates for both parent and child to attend. These dates will be outlined in the calendar.

Catechesis Ministry

The most unexpected way we grow deeper in our faith is by teaching and learning alongside others. The rewards are amazing! We have many opportunities to enrich your life through Catechesis Ministry. Please consider sharing your time and talent with the children and families in our parish. Catechists receive free tuition; they are only asked to pay a \$30 materials fee and sacramental fee if applicable. Aides, Building Coordinators and Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders receive 50% off tuition. If you are interested in volunteering please contact me for more information.

I look forward to growing in faith with you! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

With Peace and Prayers,

Patricia Hummel
Religious Education Coordinator
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