


1679 1867
SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
220 Church Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone (269) 983-1575 Fax (269) 983-7798

August 4, 2019

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 me 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. We look forward to doing our part in supporting you in that decision. And as we assist you in that, please understand that there is nothing that encourages them to take our faith seriously as much as seeing you take that same faith seriously. Being a parent can be a beautiful and love-filled vocation, but it can also be a challenging and thankless vocation at times. In the midst of those challenges, please never underestimate the impact you have and the dignity of the role God has given you in the lives of your children!

As your children's first teachers in the faith, please make sure you are doing your best to attend Mass with them every weekend and pray with them regularly. For the students preparing for First Communion and beyond, that is something we- and the whole Catholic Church- emphasize, and we will need your support of us in that! We also have a very active and dynamic youth ministry program, which might be a good option or fit to assist your child in the practice of their faith. If there's anything we can be doing to support you- in the classroom or out- please don't hesitate to be in touch. Mr. Tim Smith and Ms. Roxanne Rogers in our Religious Education office, and Mr. Chad Roden in our Youth Ministry program are all happy to assist, as are we as your pastors!

Please sign up 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 all the way 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.

Classes begin the week of September 15th. I am very excited to see you all and to be working with you all again. Together, we can do our part by God's grace to help raise up the next generations of leaders and saints in our Church!

In Christ,
Fr. James Adams and Fr. Thomas McNally
Co-Pastors of St. Joseph, SS. John & Bernard
and St. Joseph-Watervliet