



**St. James Catholic Church**  
**Religious Education Office**  
**505 Woodcrest Avenue**  
**Lititz, PA 17543**

**Rose Barnas**  
*Director of Religious Education*  
**Carroll Feldman**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
**Phone: (717) 626-0244**

June 30, 2018

*Information/forms contained in this letter are on the Parish Website.*  
[www.stjameslititz.org](http://www.stjameslititz.org) **Please note that several pages in this package are copied on two sides.**

## **RE: Religious Education Registration for the 2018-2019 School Year**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter provides information regarding registration for the 2018-2019 Parish Religious Education (PRE) school year. **Please take the time to read through this material, so as to be fully informed regarding the upcoming year.**

### **Sacramental Preparation for Reconciliation and Holy Communion (Grades 1-2)**

**All children who plan to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Holy Communion** for the first time during the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 school years must be registered for PRE this year, **including those students who are home schooled or parochial schooled.**

### **Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation (Grades 6-8)**

**All children who plan to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation** in the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, or 2020-2021 school years must be registered for PRE this year, **including those students who are home schooled or parochial schooled.**

The **preliminary information** received through the **Youth Ministry Focus Groups** in June 2018 **indicates that it may be appropriate to make certain changes to the RE Confirmation Preparation Program.** For this reason, specific class times for the Confirmation Preparation Students is not yet provided. I anticipate that we will have a clear vision of the plan for Grades 6-8 by the beginning of August. Parents will have the opportunity to comment and provide feedback before any changes to the Confirmation Preparation Program are finalized.

### **Registration for Religious Education**

Registration begins upon receipt of this material. You have four ways to register:

1. In person at the RE Office;
2. Return the registration materials by US mail;
3. After Masses the weekends of June 30/July 1 or August 5/6 in Our Lady's Center; or
4. Online at the Parish Website [www.stjameslititz.org/faith-formation/](http://www.stjameslititz.org/faith-formation/).

All the materials contained in this mailing are also on the website under Faith Formation - Parish Religious Education.

**RE Schedule** Regular classes will begin on **Sunday, September 16th and Wednesday, September 19th.** The detailed RE School Year Calendar will be **emailed** to parents and will be **posted to the parish website** on August 17, 2018.

**Tuition** The tuition remains \$100 per child and is capped at \$200 per family. Tuition payments may be made annually or quarterly. A minimum tuition deposit of \$25 is asked at the time of registration. In addition to tuition, **parents are also expected to volunteer at least once each year, for each student they have participating in the RE Program.** Please note that a limited “*Parish Service In Lieu of Tuition Payment Program*” is again offered, as a means of “paying” tuition through the use of your time and talents for the benefit of our parish. A summary of service opportunities is included with this letter. The opportunities listed are the only volunteer events that will be counted toward tuition for the coming year. If you have extraordinary circumstances and are unable to pay tuition or perform *Service In Lieu of Tuition*, please call me to discuss a tuition adjustment.

### **Sacramental Preparation Years and Progress Assessment**

The Diocese expects our children to be satisfactorily prepared to receive the sacraments and to make specific yearly progress in knowledge of and understanding of our Catholic Faith. *Each year of religious instruction is part of the continuum that prepares your child for reception of the sacraments and augments the religious training that parent(s) provide in the Domestic Church – the family home – through the daily example of your lives.* Therefore, it is important that each child continues in their faith formation, through family activities, **participation in Sunday Mass**, and the more formal instruction provided through home instruction (materials will be provided by St. James), participation in RE classes, or religious instruction that is part of a parochial school curriculum. For the St. James RE classes and home school instruction materials:

- **Pre-school and Kindergarten** focus on Bible stories, basic Catholic prayers, and loving others as God loves us.
- **Grades 1-2** are the **sacramental preparation period for reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion** for the first time. The Diocese requires the equivalent of two years of preparation. **Children must complete both years or the equivalent**, before reception of these sacraments.
- **Grades 3-4** focus on reinforcing understanding of these two sacraments, as well as introducing the other 5 sacraments and the Mass.
- **Grade 5** focuses on Prayer, the Creed, the Church, and the Communion of the Saints.
- **Grades 6-8** are the sacramental preparation period for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Students must complete these years or the equivalent**, before reception of Confirmation.

Study of Scripture, the lives of the Saints, prayer and service to others is incorporated in all of the years.

During sacramental preparation years, special events, seminars and retreats are held for the candidates, **which your child is expected to attend.** The requirements of these sacramental years will be thoroughly discussed at Parent Sacramental Preparation Meetings in September/October and **apply to PRE, home schooled and parochial school students.**

**Special Learning Needs** If your child has special learning needs, we ask that you identify these needs for us on the medical form (enclosed). This information aids the RE Office and the catechists in planning lessons that will help your child (and all of the children) learn in a manner which best suits them. **All children are welcome to participate in RE Program!**

**Teen/Adult Confirmation:** We will offer Confirmation Preparation classes for adults and for teens (G9-12). These classes will begin in September 2018, with Confirmation in Spring 2018. Candidates for any of these classes should register with the RE Office ASAP.

**RCIA Preparation:** Classes for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (RCIA prepares adults to enter the Catholic Church) will also begin again in September 2018. Adult and youth Candidates for any of these classes should register with the RE Office ASAP.

**Parent Catechesis:** To assist parents in your role as the *“first and best catechist of their children,”* we are again offering Faith Formation classes for parents. These classes will be held in St. James Hall **at the same time that your children have class.** Each week, a different topic will be presented. Attendance is voluntary and free. A schedule of classes and topics will be provided with the detailed RE calendar in August. These classes are referred to as “SIP & DIP.” **You are also encouraged to attend other faith Formation events sponsored by the parish.**

**Family Catechesis:** To assist parents in your role as the *“first and best catechist of their children,”* a subscription to the digital streaming service "**Formed.org**" has been purchased for the families of the parish. An instruction card and access code for this service is included in the material with this letter. **PLEASE** use this service at home. It is a wonderful alternative to that material provided on the internet and TV today. There is something for everyone on this service and it is **FREE** to your family.

During this school year, we will be **introducing a monthly special Family Catechesis Day.** This event will include a specific catechesis topic relevant to all family members (for instance, the Saints or “I Spy the Church), age appropriate activities, a family meal, and Mass or seasonal Prayer Service. We hope that all families will participate. The schedule and theme for each month will be included with the August 17, 2018 RE Calendar.

**RE Fundraising Project** For the past several years, we have raised funds to help offset that portion of the RE budget which is used for special activities. This year, our primary fund-raising activities will be:

- **resale of used printer/toner cartridges** - the cartridge resale is a year round project and raises about \$600/year. Please keep those used and empty cartridges coming!!!.
- **continuation of the FREE Knight & Day/Park City Diners SOS Fundraising** through use of **LOYALTY CARDS** (if you need a FREE Loyalty Card, please call or stop by the RE Office and keep eating at these diners often)!
- **The Parish Summer Yard Sale.** Please see the enclosed flyer for more information.

I hope that this letter provides you with understandable information regarding the upcoming RE registration. As always, your feedback and suggestions for program improvement are welcomed!

Your sister in Christ,

*Rose Barrow, DRE*