



St. James Catholic Church
Religious Education Office
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Information/forms contained in this letter are on the Parish Website.
www.stjameslititz.org **Please note that several pages in this package are copied on two sides.**

RE: Religious Education Registration for the 2019-2020 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter provides information regarding registration for the 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 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 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school years must be registered for PRE this year, **including those students who are home schooled or parochial schooled.**

Please note that while the class days for **Confirmation students** have remained the same, the **class times have been adjusted to allow for an 80 minute class length.** This is needed to ensure that all of the required material for each of the three years can be covered. This change is being made so that we meet Diocesan requirements and is also based on Catechist feedback.

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 22/23 or August 3/4 in Our Lady's Center; or
4. Online at the Parish Website www.stjameslititz.org/faith-formation, starting on July 1, 2019.

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 15th and Wednesday, September 18th.** The detailed RE School Year Calendar will be **emailed** to parents and will be **posted to the parish website** on August 19, 2019.

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 the RE Program!**

Teen/Adult Confirmation: We will offer separate Confirmation Preparation classes for adults and for teens (G9-12). These classes will begin in October 2019, with Confirmation in Spring 2020. 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 2019. 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 offering Faith Formation classes for parents, which will 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. Instructions and an 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 (**monthly**) **special Family Catechesis Days**. This event will include a specific catechesis topic relevant to all family members, 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 19, 2019 RE Calendar.

St. Jimmy’s Jamboree and “**Pray and Play**” are also two new initiatives this year, focused on families with younger children. See the insert page for more information on these active ties.

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 asked 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 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. 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.

RE Fundraising Project Each year, we raise funds to help offset a portion of the RE budget expense: the remainder of the expenses are funded by RE Tuition and a subsidy from the weekly parish collections income. These fund raising activities are extremely important, as our parish weekly collections level continues to decline. Parish operating budgets, including the RE budget, have been scrubbed of all but essential expenses. As such we, we ask you to please support our fundraising activities, so that the planned special events can proceed. Also, if you are able, please consider increasing your weekly/monthly contribution to the parish.

This year, our primary fund-raising activities will be:

- **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.
- **Isaac’s Restaurant Fundraiser Days**, from which RE receives a % of each check.

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!

Paul Barnes, DRE