

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear St. Patrick's Religious Education Parents:

As many of you are aware we have not yet filled an opening for our Director of Religious Education. We had thought we could combine resources with St. Ambrose, but we have found this to be more difficult than we had anticipated. Therefore, I recently volunteered to serve as the Religious Education Coordinator in the interim with the gracious support and help of our current teachers and a few other lay people of the parish.

We appreciate your patience while our team developed the following plan for CCD 22-23. We recognize there have been several changes, and for many reasons which have already been shared. We are blessed to have the resources to be able to continue to offer sacramental education classes at St. Patrick's, and potentially be able to expand to other grades in future months to come.

As Father mentioned a few weeks ago at the parents meeting, we are focusing first and foremost on the sacramental years. There was a question remaining on the class time, and we have collectively decided classes will be held on **Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45AM**, just before mass. Attached is an **UPDATED CALENDARS** for both the Sacramental Classes and Parental Educational Sessions.

**First Communion Class and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will have class together at 8:45-9:45AM
- Teachers will be Mike Peters and Carrie Weihler
- Requirements for First Communion children (2<sup>nd</sup> grade):
  - Children must not miss more than 4 classes. After the 5<sup>th</sup> missed class, you will need to meet with Father to discuss your commitment to your child receiving the sacrament.
  - Children are expected to attend mass and attendance will be tracked. If you attend St. Patrick's or St. Ambrose a card can be placed in the collection basket. If you attend another church that weekend, we ask that your child brings a bulletin with them to the next class.
  - Parents must attend 4 out of the 6 Parent Sessions. Parent Sessions will be held at St. Ambrose, see the attached calendar. Only one parent is required to attend. If needed, childcare may be made available.
- First Communion will be Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Confirmation:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have class together at 8:45-9:45AM
- Teachers will be Greg and Stacie Simon
- Both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will be confirmed this year
- Requirements for 7-8<sup>th</sup>:
  - Children must not miss more than 4 classes. After the 5<sup>th</sup> missed class, you will need to meet with Father to discuss your commitment to your child receiving the sacrament.
  - Children are expected to attend mass and attendance will be tracked. If you attend St. Patrick's or St. Ambrose mass a card can be placed in the collection basket. If you attend another church that weekend, we ask that your child brings a bulletin with them to the next class.

- Parents must attend 4 of the 6 Parent Sessions. Parent Sessions will be held at St. Ambrose, see the attached calendar. Only one parent is required to attend. If needed, childcare may be made available.
- The Confirmation date is still pending. Rockridge School and St. Patrick's calendars are being considered. Weekend and weekday dates between mid-April to mid-May are being considered.

**Kindergarten -1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>:**

- We may have a potential option, but classes would not start before the beginning of October at the earliest. We will need to gather the level of interest and commitment first as well as obtain a firm teacher commitment.
- Space is also being taken into consideration.
- More to come....

**High School Youth:**

- We are still discussing options for High School Youth Group, more to come.
- We would like to take a group this coming summer '23 to Steubenville or NCYC, again more to come.
- Any high school student interested in youth group, youth events, or volunteering in anyway, should reach out to myself so we have an idea on the level of interest and commitment.

**NEW ANNOUNCEMENT:**

- Children's Liturgy of the Word (Preschool Children)
  - This will begin the first weekend in October.
  - All Preschool children will be invited to attend the Children's Liturgy of the Word.
  - Children will be asked to come to the back of the church, by themselves preferably, to join our teacher(s) for their own session.
  - This will be announced before the readings and children will rejoin their parents after the homily.
  - A sign-up card will be placed in the pews at church the next few weeks, and you can place your response in the collection basket.

We thank you all for your commitment to bringing our Children closer to Christ through continued education and through the sacraments. We invite ALL parents to attend any of the Parent Education Classes to help expand your own knowledge, understanding, and faith. What a wonderful opportunity to share this experience hand in hand with your child!

Have a blessed week.

Sincerely,

**Sherry Jessen**  
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***Quote from Allen Hunt – "If we want to pass on our faith, we can only pass on what we have. We can't give what we don't have. There are no shortcuts."***