

HOLY CROSS CHURCH



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



2017-2018 Registration

Carefully review both sides of this newsletter before completing your Religious Education registration. *The 2017-2018 form is on goldenrod paper.*

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please check all pre-printed info on registration form and make necessary corrections. Be sure to update your email address and check the 2017-18 grade level for each child.
- On the line next to your child's grade WRITE your choice of session for your child. For example, Sunday 9:30 or Wednesday 4:45 or Wednesday 7:00. SEE SESSION CHOICES BELOW.
- You may return your completed registration form as soon as you receive it. In order to facilitate the ordering of materials and volunteer recruitment, **ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE IN OUR OFFICE BY JULY 31st.** If necessary, you can change your child's session after registering.
- Payment is due at the time of registration, and we prefer you pay the full amount. However, *if you are unable to pay the fees in full, DO NOT DELAY your registration. Make a partial payment. Starting in September, we will bill you throughout the RE year. Full payment should be made by April 30, 2018. SEE FEE SCHEDULE BELOW.*
- If you have a child who has not received Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion, or Confirmation and is beyond the grade level indicated for reception of any of these sacraments, on the **SPECIAL NEEDS** line of the registration, please WRITE the Sacraments your son/daughter needs.

CHOICES for Preschool (age 4 by Sept. 1) and Kindergarten: Sundays at 9:30AM
for Grades 1-4 Sundays at 9:30-11:00AM; Wednesdays at 4:45-6:00PM; or Wednes. 7:00-8:15PM
for Grades 5-8 Sundays at 9:30 - 11:00AM; Wednesdays at 4:45-6:15PM; or Wednes. 7:00-8:30PM

FEE SCHEDULE:	1 child	\$165	Make checks payable to: <i>Holy Cross Religious Education</i>
	2 children	\$250	
	3+ children	\$325	

PLACEMENT: All children (Preschool through grade 8) will be placed by staff in the order in which your family's registration is received. *If you are a catechist for the grade of one of your children, that child will be placed in your group, unless you note otherwise.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday sessions will begin on September 24. Wednesday sessions will begin on September 27. *(The dates for all religious education sessions will be furnished in September with the placement letter mailed to each family.)* **SESSIONS FOR ALL GRADES WILL BEGIN IN THE CLASSROOMS.**

GENDER NOTATION: Since many names apply to both boys and girls, please make sure the proper gender of your child is indicated.

SACRAMENTS: Baptism is the first sacrament we receive as Catholics. Children in second grade celebrate First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. Youth in eighth grade receive Confirmation. If you have a child who has not received Baptism, Reconciliation, Communion, or Confirmation and is beyond the grade level indicated for reception of any of these sacraments, please note the following: You must register with our parish and complete a religious education registration form. If your child is not baptized, you are to submit a BIRTH CERTIFICATE for him/her. Your child will be placed in their current grade for religious education and minimally 2 years of religious education is required for First Holy Communion and for Confirmation. Baptism will be administered at the Pastor's discretion. Continued on reverse side

NOTE TO RETURNING CATECHISTS: Even if you indicated on the Year End Evaluation your intention to return as a catechist in the coming year, you still need to submit a completed registration form. This is necessary to ensure your child(ren)'s placement in your program of choice. Also, as a reminder, returning catechists must have completed Protecting God's Children (one time only) and updated compliance forms as directed by the diocese. Please see reverse side of *Volunteer form* (enclosed) for more info.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT is essential for the success of our religious education program. There are many opportunities for you to serve the youth. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the religious education ministry and inform us on the enclosed volunteer form. Keep in mind that our goal is to have two adults in each classroom. It is diocesan policy that all volunteers working with youth must attend the PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN training (one time only), as well as read several safe environment documents, and sign forms verifying the documents have been read. Please see reverse side of *Volunteer form* (enclosed) for more info.

HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM OPTION: *Home Instruction* is an option for grades 6 - 8. Families choosing Home Instruction for their child(ren) are expected to complete a registration form and pay the full fee. If you prefer this option, please write the words "HOME INSTRUCTION" in the special needs area of the registration form.

If you registered your child(ren) for Home Instruction during the 2016-17 school year but did not complete the required guidelines, you are not eligible for the Home Instruction option during the 2017-18 RE year. Educating your children at home can be an enriching experience. However, it requires a commitment that can be difficult to keep in our busy world. Before registering for Home Instruction, please prayerfully consider whether this is the best choice for you and your child(ren).

Materials will be available starting Thursday, October 19th at the 7 PM meeting in Donovan Hall.

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL NEEDS: In an effort to give optimum attention to children with special needs, we ask that parents please be open when completing the section of the registration form which requests information re: any individual needs your child(ren) has. It is extremely important that you share as much information as possible regarding any special needs your child(ren) may have so we are prepared to offer a positive experience for every child. If our staff feels that we are unable to meet the needs of a child, we will provide materials for you to work at home with your child. Please know the information offered will only be shared with your child's catechist(s) and will be held in confidence by our staff.

Parishes in the Fox Valley area offer an alternative religious education program for families with youth who need a different environment than the traditional classroom setting. The **SPeial Religious EDucation program (SPRED) is for persons with developmental disabilities in the Aurora Deanery. For more information or to enroll a family member in one of these small faith communities, please contact Jose Coronel at auroraareacenter@sbcglobal.net or Ann Walder at annwalder@comcast.net.**

DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD FORMATION IN CHRISTIAN CHASTITY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM: The Rockford Diocese implemented this program in 2010 recognizing that parents are the primary educators of chastity and safe environment for their children. Therefore, our lessons are meant to support your efforts and focus on the dignity of each person and God's plan for all of us. Children in each grade from first through eighth will receive instruction in the chastity component and children in grades one, three, five and eight will have a safe environment lesson. The material is foundational in the lower grades and leads to the Catholic Church's teaching on the virtue of chastity in grade eight. This is **not** sex education. However, you can opt out your child(ren) from class for these lessons. We will have an **Orientation Meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 7:00 PM in Room 205 in the Education Center.**