

# HOLY CROSS CHURCH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2018-2019 Registration

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Religious Education year! Many wonderful changes are taking place in religious education.

Preschool and kindergarten will stay the same, **weekly on Sundays** during the 9:45 Mass. Children in grades 1 - 8 and their parents will be attending **monthly sessions**. Why the change? Please continue reading the following explanation.

At the root of this change is a fuller understanding of the Church's call for parents to be the primary educators of their children in Faith and the parish's role to support families in this mission. National trends in catechesis are guiding parishes toward this understanding. Parishes that have implemented *Family Formation* are reporting a stronger Faith knowledge and practice in their communities.

When your children were baptized, you promised to raise and nurture your children in the Faith. This is not an easy task and we want to support and assist you. As stated in the General Directory of Catechesis (Articles 255 and 227):

*"Parents are the primary educators in the faith. It is for this reason that the Christian community must give very special attention to parents. By means of personal contact, meetings, courses and also adult catechesis directed towards parents, the Christian community must help them assume their responsibility-which is particularly delicate today-of educating their children in the faith."*

*Family Formation* will replace the weekly Sunday and Wednesday (grades 1 - 8) elementary classes and home instruction. This is a shift from a weekly classroom model for children to a monthly session for children and parents at church. At the monthly sessions, children gather with a teacher by grade while parents receive catechesis based on the monthly theme and guidance on the home lessons from Fr. Parker. This program's unique format will draw your family together through the enthusiastic faith of your children. Its creativity and simple concepts make learning fun, as each lesson is written at an elementary level but with adult level instruction to guide and enhance your teaching. Parents do not have to be experts in the Faith, just willing to devote about an hour a week to quality family time in sharing the Faith.

Understanding the busy schedules of today's families, the weekly lessons at home can be adapted to your own family schedule. The lessons for grades 1-6 will provide the backbone for your children's spiritual formation in these formative years. This comprehensive program not only engages young children, it draws families together and equips parents to do a first-rate job in teaching the Catholic Faith to their children. For more information, we encourage you to

watch the videos on our parish website. Go to <http://www.holycross-batavia.org>. At the main page, hover over RE/Youth Ministry and select Religious Education; there you will find the Family Formation videos.)

For youth in grades 7 & 8, we will use CHOSEN, a current program specifically designed to prepare young teens both intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to become lifelong disciples of Christ. CHOSEN seeks to win over the hearts of teens in a critical time in their lives and keep them firmly planted within the faith community of the Church. It features highly effective and engaging material conveyed through videos, student workbooks, and discussion.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the curriculum or monthly sessions, please contact Pat Roatch (grades pre-school thru 6, including First Communion) at [patroatch@holycross-batavia.org](mailto:patroatch@holycross-batavia.org) or 630-879-4750, ext. 110 or Karen McQuillan (grades 7& 8, and Confirmation) at [kmcquillan@holycross-batavia.org](mailto:kmcquillan@holycross-batavia.org) or 630-879-4750, ext. 109.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Holy Cross Religious Education Staff

### **Registration information:**

Please make any corrections to your registration form if you are a returning family. Please return all forms ASAP.

**Dates for monthly sessions are the following Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00 PM:** September 19, October 3, November 7, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 13, April 3 and May 1. (In September, we will mail your family's placement letter and a complete calendar with dates for preschool - kindergarten, sacramental meetings, and orientation for parents of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in using CHOSEN.)

**Fee Schedule:** 1 child \$165; 2 children \$250; 3 or more \$325. Fees are due at the time of registration. If you are unable to pay the fees in full, DO NOT DELAY your registration. Make a partial payment and attach it to your registration, so we can process your registration. We will bill you for the remainder throughout the RE year. All fees are due by April 30, 2019. **Please make check payable to Holy Cross Religious Education.**

### **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. The lessons for children in grades 1-8 focus on the dignity of each person and God's plan for all of us. 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. You will receive these lessons to teach at home and can also opt out your child(ren). We will have a **Parent Orientation Meeting on Thursday, October 11 at 7:00 PM in Room 207 in the Education Center.**