

An Old Bordertown Parish

## **ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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To All of our Religious Education Parents and Students:

We are planning to reopen our Religious Ed program at the very end of September or beginning of October. We have many restrictions placed on us by the Diocese of Joliet due to the COVID 19 epidemic, but we have made every effort to make our classes safe for all students and catechists. Please be assured that the health and welfare of your family members is our top concern. We will start registration as soon as the Diocese of Joliet gives final approval to our reopening plan. We intend to offer classes to student in kindergarten through junior high. Students who are in second grade or above may be prepared to First Confession and First Communion. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades and above will be prepared for Confirmation, but due to Diocesan regulations these students must be part of the program for two years before they are Confirmed. Therefore it is very important that any students entering sixth grade or above get into the classes right now. Father Pete will be publishing our registration forms on the parish website. You may return them on the announced registration days or mail them to the rectory. Please be assured that we look to keep both the spiritual and physical health of all of our students as a top priority.

Father Pete will be posting our registration form on the parish website. Please be sure to fill out both sides. One side is permission to attend the classes, permission that a student may be photographed while in class or church activities, and a medical permission form. We ask parents to sign these permissions on the registration form. It's really important that you give permission for your child to be given emergency medical treatment if it's necessary. If emergency personnel don't have this written permission, they can't begin treating the student for an illness or injury until the parent comes on the scene to give this permission. We recently checked the diocesan website and unfortunately these

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permissions have not been translated into Spanish because apparently since there are legal implications, it would take a Spanish speaking lawyer to do the translations. We do however have the front page of the registration form available in Spanish. We ask ALL families to provide us with an e-mail address and a number that we can text to so that we can communicate more effectively than we were able to do last year. If you wish to download the registration forms from the website, you may fill them out in advance and either mail them in or bring them to the registration after Mass the week before class starts or to the first class.

In order to provide materials for our classes, we must ask for a tuition contribution, which is \$135.00 if one student in the family is attending. It's \$170.00 if there are two children, and \$185.00 for three or more children. First Confession/First Communion families are asked for an additional \$50.00 per child to cover extra costs involved in Sacrament preparation. Some families choose to break these costs up into several payments over the course of the year. All checks should be made out to "St. Patrick's Church".

Things will be bit different in class this year. We will start at 9:00 A.M., but we ask families to have the kids there a few minutes before that because we must take the temperature of every child outside the south front door before they come in. All students and teachers will be expected to wear face masks for the entire class time. Also students are asked to get their own pencils and crayons, etc. These will be kept in a large freezer bag which students will take home each week after class.

We hope that everyone will attend one of our Masses. On Saturday afternoon Mass is at 4:00 P.M. On Sunday Mass in English is at 10:30 A.M., and Mass in Spanish is at 12:00. We hope that we can have a good year.