

# St. John Paul II Catholic Church

## 2018-2019 Religious Education

Dear Parents,

Welcome! Some of you may have been with us in the past and some may be joining us for the first time this year. To all of you we say, thank you for the trust you place in the catechists and helpers who assist you as you bring your children closer to God through Religious Education classes.

We meet each student where they are in their faith, using printed materials, music, art, in-class discussion, and fun crafts and games. Through these mediums, we help them grow in knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Church. Most importantly we strive to help them grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. In keeping with this goal, we carefully select materials in accordance with the guidelines of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

This year we are continuing to use Loyola's *Finding God* series for K-8 students and the Loyola *God's Gift* programs for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation. You will find that the *Finding God* series has a family friendly website to provide more information for you and your students at home. Each week I will also email you a summary of what your children learned as well as send newsletters throughout the year. For more information, visit their website at [www.findinggod.com](http://www.findinggod.com). These family resources offer you and your children ways to make your home a "domestic church".

This year our high school youth are meeting as a youth group, using the DoCat and YouCat materials, pioneered by Pope Francis. Peer led, this group will explore our faith as well as put it into action. It will also be a time for shared prayer and fellowship for our high school youth.

Remember that we are always here for any need your family may have. The back of this page may answer some of your concerns but feel free to contact our Religious Education Office with questions.

Sincerely,



Kristina Seipel  
Director of Religious Education

Call/Text: 502-751-3562  
[kseipel@stjohnpaulparish.org](mailto:kseipel@stjohnpaulparish.org)

## **Important Information for Religious Education Classes:**

- Classes are held on Sunday evenings from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm.
- K-8 Classes are held in St. Joe's Old School Building meeting rooms.
- High School Classes are held in the St. Joe Hill Office Conference Room.
- Programs for adults are advertised in the bulletin, on the parish website and via email. These are often held during K-12 Religious Education classes.

### **Drop off and pick up:**

- Kristina Seipel or another adult will always be on the main floor of the St. Joe Old School Building. Your children will be greeted and directed to their class each evening as they arrive.
- *We ask all parents (or an older sibling) of children in grades K – 4 to bring their children into the building at the start of class and pick them up inside the building after class is over.*
- If you are running late to pick up your children, please call Kristina Seipel at **502-751-3562** so your child does not become concerned when you are not there on time.

### **Attendance and Tardiness:**

- Encouraging attendance will show your child how important you regard the faith you have chosen for your family. We strive to make class time enjoyable as well as informative so that your child will look forward to coming to class! We also offer our adult programs for your personal enrichment and as an opportunity for you to be an example to your children.
- Since late arrivals can disrupt class time and distract the other students, we encourage prompt arrival to religious education nights.

### **Weather Closings:**

- Classes are held August through April unless the children are on break. In case of inclement weather, you will be notified via email, on the parish website and app, and through Remind if there is a need to cancel classes.
- You can subscribe to our remind texts by texting @jp2reled to the number 81010. You must subscribe each school year.

### **Important Safety Information:**

To keep your children safe in case of emergencies, we practice both fire and tornado drills at the beginning of each school year. Please remind your children that during this time, no talking is allowed so that everyone can be safe and follow instructions.

If a child is injured or becomes ill during religious education classes, a parent will be contacted by Kristina, the hall monitor, the child's teacher or classroom helper. If neither parent can be reached, the emergency contact listed on your child's registration form will be contacted.

Lastly, parents are asked to remind their children to follow the instructions given by adults at religious education to ensure their safety.