



P.O. Box 7158  
15 Railroad Avenue  
Spreckels, CA 93962  
Phone: (831) 455-8720  
Fax: (831) 455-9357

Carrie Aragon, DRE ([caragon@stjchurch.org](mailto:caragon@stjchurch.org))  
Marjorie Callahan ([mcallahan@stjchurch.org](mailto:mcallahan@stjchurch.org))



May 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

It's time to register your child for 2017-2018 Religious Education classes at St. Joseph's Church. The catechists and I enjoyed having your children in classes this year and look forward to seeing them again in the fall to continue their faith formation.

Registration materials are on our website, [www.stjchurch.org/formation/form-center](http://www.stjchurch.org/formation/form-center). You can also visit the parish office (Monday-Thursday: 9:30am-12:30pm, 1:30pm-4:30pm or Friday: 9:30am-1:00pm) to obtain the necessary forms. **Registration forms and fees are due by May 31, 2017.** Please note: All registrations received after May 31<sup>st</sup> will be assessed a \$20 late fee per child.

Class sizes are limited by Diocesan adult to child ratios (1 to 12) and are filled on a first come/first serve basis. The available days and times for St. Joseph's religious education classes are as follows:

- Preschool and Kindergarten – Sunday (9:00-10:00am)
- Grades 1-5
  - Sunday (10:00-10:45am)
  - Monday (3:15-4:00pm)
  - Wednesday (1:15-2:15pm) – Early Release Days at Spreckels Elementary School
- Faith Formation II – Monday (5:00-5:45pm)
- RCI for Youth – Sunday (time to be determined)
- Middle School Youth Group – Thursday (6:30-8:00pm)
- High School Youth Group – Thursday (7:00-8:30pm)
- Confirmation I and II (7:00-8:30pm -- days to be determined once school calendars are available)

The sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are received in the third grade. Preparation for these sacraments is a two year class (beginning in second grade). There are three mandatory retreats (dates to be determined): a parent retreat, a child First Reconciliation retreat and a child First Eucharist retreat.

Faith Formation classes are available for children in grades 4 and higher who have been Baptized, but have not received First Communion. Faith Formation is a two year program. Please contact the Religious Education office for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation (RCI) for Youth classes are available for children ages 7 and up who have yet to be Baptized. Please contact the Religious Education office for more information.

Confirmation is a two year program for high school students who are ready to continue their journey of faith. Sessions are held in the evenings (7:00-8:30pm) during the school week (once or twice a month, August through June). There are two retreats for Confirmation I (a parent/sponsor retreat and a one day teen retreat). There is one retreat for Confirmation II (a three day/two night teen retreat held at Monte Toyon in Aptos – **please mark your calendars for September 15-17, 2017**). Attendance at retreats is mandatory. If you or your child cannot attend, you will need to contact neighboring Catholic churches to attend their retreat in lieu of ours.

Teens are invited to join our youth group (POP's Place Jr. for grades 6-8 and POP's Place for grades 9-12). All are welcome! Teens may join at any time during the year and there are no fees. Gatherings are once or twice a month. Questions – contact our Youth Group Leader, Christina Brigantino ([cbrigantino@stjchurch.org](mailto:cbrigantino@stjchurch.org)). To attend Youth Group, please submit (or bring along to your first meeting) the first four pages of the registration form.

St. Joseph's religious education program is volunteer based. If you are interested in sharing your love of our Catholic faith and enjoy working with young people, please consider joining this important ministry. If you can help, check the catechist or aide box on your child's registration form. All adults who are assisting with children must be fingerprinted by the Diocese and complete an online training program. Contact the Religious Education office for clearance forms and information. If you are a catechist or aide in your child's class, please deduct \$30 from the fees for that child. Thank you for volunteering.

St. Joseph's is committed to making reasonable accommodations for learners with special needs. Please contact us to see how we can best help your child.

If you are registering a child for the first time, please provide a copy of the child's Baptism and First Communion certificates (as applicable) with the completed registration forms.

We communicate with families via email. Please provide your family email address (and candidate email address for Confirmation I and II) on your registration form.

If you are not currently registered as parishioners at St. Joseph's Church and wish to do so, a parish registration form may be downloaded from the same location as the above Religious Education registration materials.

Religious education fees can also be paid via credit or debit cards (please email or submit a copy of your electronic receipt with your registration forms):

1. Visit our website [www.stjchurch.org](http://www.stjchurch.org) -- 'News & Events: Donate' -- 'Make an online donation' -- input amount under 'Religious Ed, Classes' and note child's name(s) and class in the accompanying memo line; or
2. Use your smart phone and the QR code at the top of this letter -- input amount under 'Religious Ed, Classes' and note child's name(s) and class in the accompanying memo line; or
3. Visit the parish office during our open hours and we'll swipe your card.

As always, no child will be denied religious education classes due to an inability to pay. If you have a financial hardship, please let us know.

Return the completed packet with the applicable fees to the parish office (15 Railroad Avenue) or mail to St. Joseph's Church, Religious Education, P.O. Box 7158, Spreckels, CA 93962-7158. You may also scan/email to [mcallahan@stjchurch.org](mailto:mcallahan@stjchurch.org) or fax (831-455-9357). We also have a secure drop box (to the right of main door) for registrations brought after hours.

Please read the weekly church bulletin or visit our website for class schedules and other important Religious Education information. Registered students will be emailed a calendar of classes this summer.

May your family have a wonderful spring and summer. We look forward to seeing you and instructing your child in our Catholic faith in the fall. May God continue to bless us with what we need.

Blessings,



Carrie Aragon  
Director of Religious Education  
St. Joseph's Church  
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