

*ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*



Dear St. Paul Religious Education Families,

Welcome to St. Paul the Apostle Religious Education Program for the 2020-2021 school year, I hope you are all well, staying healthy and coping with our new way of the world! My name is Michele Kmety and I am the new Director of Religious Education. I am not new to St. Paul, as some of you may know I have served as the Parish Administrative Assistant for the past 5 years here. I will continue to serve as Parish Admin in a part time role as well as DRE. My afternoon hours will be completely dedicated to Religious Education. A little something about myself and why this program is so very important to me. I am married to my husband Charlie and we have four children, Frederick 29, Nicholas 23, Madison 22 and finally our baby Benjamin who is 19. I know he really is not a baby but he is my baby. We live in Plainfield and until recently, we were members of Holy Family in Shorewood, where I volunteered for 18 years as a catechist. The Religious Education program is very important to me, because I myself am a product of attending "CCD" and having my own children go through the program, I want the very best for our children and their families.

As we begin the 2020-2021 Religious Education year, I am sure there are many questions regarding the program and how we will proceed going forward. I want to assure you that Fr. Mark, the catechists and myself are dedicated to helping your child grow in faith and come closer to God. After much discussion with the Pastoral staff, we have decided to move forward with a home based program. More than ever before, we will become partners with each of you and rely on you to help in passing on the Catholic beliefs and traditions. We understand that this may be a bit of a struggle for some, and we understand that many of you have your children learning from home and the last thing we want to do is put any extra pressure on our parents.

There will be weekly zoom meetings with your child's Family Shepherd and they will focus on the highlights of each chapter, you are more than welcome to join in and listen to the meetings. It will then be up to each family to complete the chapter on their own time schedule that week. We hope to make this as interactive as we possibly can, we have so many great ideas swirling around. There will be weekly videos for the family to view together, this may be a Gospel reflection from Fr. Mark, virtual tours of the church, rosary with the Youth Ministry, Stations of the Cross and many others. We pray that some of the CDC guidelines will be eased over time and then we can hopefully get back to some type of face-to-face interaction whether it is once a month or twice a month but right now, we just do not know. Fr. Mark does plan on celebrating mass for our Religious Education families several times during the year. Included with this letter are this year's registration form, or you may also access this on the parish website @ <https://www.stpauljoliet.com/rep> . Once we receive your registration you will receive a confirmation email along with all of the information regarding your child's Family Shepherd and the scope and sequence for their grade as well as any Sacrament information you may need.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, I can be reached by email or phone which is listed below. May God bless you and your families as we begin this exciting journey together to deepen our faith and love for God and others.

Peace and God Bless,

Michele Kmety  
Parish Admin. Asst. and  
Director of Religious Education  
parishsec@stpauljoliet.com 815-725-1527