



Holy Cross Religious Education

375 George Road Freeville, NY 13068

607.844.8314

lacy.park@gmail.com

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Dear Holy Cross Parents:

With fall approaching, it's time to register for religious education at Holy Cross Church. Most of you are aware I resigned as Religious Education Coordinator in the spring. Fr. Eloo and committee are hard at work interviewing and doing their best to bring a new staff member to Holy Cross and the cluster to fill the Pastoral Associate and Religious Education Coordinator positions. I will be leading our program on a volunteer basis until the positions are filled (hopefully soon!)

Please sign up for our program with the registration form and return to the parish office or simply put it in the collection basket during Mass. We are kindly asking for a \$25 donation per family. Please write *Religious Education* on the memo.

Religious Education classes (Sprouts-Middle School) will begin on **Sunday, September 25** at promptly **9:45 a.m.** We will give approximately 10-15 minutes to break after Mass. This, of course, will depend on the dismissal of Mass. We will begin our first class with a short introduction for parents and students in the church. The students will be directed to their classrooms and parents will remain in the church for any questions..

Religious Education classes will begin promptly at **9:45 a.m.** and end at **10:45 a.m.** Be sure to use the main church door and wait for your children in the church. We do not want students/parents entering and exiting from the parish office door. This is a safety precaution for all students. The outside door to the parish offices will remain locked.

If your child(ren) is in grades K-8 and will not be able to participate in religious education on Sunday mornings, you should utilize materials for **home study**. Kindly check this option in the lower right corner on the registration form. I will order the home study materials and send them to you as soon as they are available.

Sacramental preparation is a family-centered program held at separate times from the Sunday morning religious education classes. In accordance with diocesan guidelines, preparation for Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation is based on the candidate's readiness to celebrate the sacrament.

Confirmation preparation will be covered by Andra Benson at All Saints, with the celebration scheduled for Monday, November 14 at Immaculate Conception in Ithaca. **First Reconciliation** and **First Eucharist** preparation will begin in the late

winter with the First Reconciliation (Penance) on Saturday, February 4. First Eucharist celebration is scheduled on Sunday, May 20. Please look for the class announcements and schedules in the parish bulletin at the beginning of the year. Please contact me if your son or daughter is ready for sacramental preparation.

In an effort to cut costs much of our correspondence will occur in the **weekly bulletin**. It is important to check the bulletin each week for announcements and upcoming events in the religious education program. In addition to the bulletin, I will send out information via email, so please list your email address on the registration form.

If you have any questions about our program, do not hesitate to contact me at the parish office (844-8314), at home (844-5207), or by email, lacy.park@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ,

Lacy Park
Volunteer Coordinator, Religious Education

p.s. The calendar, activities and other events associated with Religious Education are subject to change once the new Coordinator/Pastoral Associate comes on board. Thank you for your cooperation!