

Dear Parents,

We are so happy that you are considering partnering with us in your family's faith journey. We are excited for the coming year and are hoping to have the opportunity to walk with your family in your faith journey.

Please carefully read through this letter as it contains important information about registration and the coming year. I ask that you register online with full payment as soon as possible. This helps us to prepare for classes and to ensure we have a sufficient number of catechists and materials for the fall.

New Director

My name is Melissa Elsey and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Director of Catechesis and Evangelization. I have been a part of the SIJ community for the past eight years. Five of those years have been spent teaching preschool at St. Isaac Jogues. I have spent many years in Catholic education beginning with my own education (K-8) at Our Lady Queen of Peace, my high school years at Regina and my college work at Madonna University. Upon graduation I spent three years teaching 3rd grade at St. Paul on the Lake. I have spent the past 5 years teaching preschool. During this time I completed a Masters in Elementary Education. Last year I trained for a new religion program for our youngest learners and it was through the love of this program and the passion I have for it that the Lord led me to this new opportunity. I am very excited to be making this change and I am so excited for what is to come here at SIJ. I am looking forward to working with our all our families and journeying with you as we encounter the Lord daily.

Registration

This year registration will be done all online. You can register by going to our Parish website (www.saintisaacjogues.com) and click on the link for registration. You will also pay your registration fee online when you register. If you have any questions about registration please call Melissa Elsey at the Faith Formation Office, (586) 771-3525 ext. 204 or contact her by email.

Elementary Program

We have altered our program to best meet the needs of our children. The children in grades 1-5 will meet on Monday from 4:30 to 5:45. Grades 1-5 will only be offered at this time. The children will not be dropped off to their classrooms; instead they will meet their catechist in church. We will begin each session with the Gospel and Gospel reflection. I encourage you as parents and the primary teachers of the faith to your children to join us for this time in church.

Junior High

Our Junior High students in grades 6-8 will meet on Monday evenings from 6:15-7:30. This will be the only time Junior High classes will be offered. They also will not report directly to their classroom but meet their catechist in the church. We will also have time to read the Gospel and reflect on it during this time. I again encourage the parents to join us for this time.

Family Mass

We believe that parents are the primary catechists for their children. We are here to assist you as your family walks this journey of faith. This year we are incorporating Family Masses as a part of our program. We will have several opportunities to come together and worship the Lord as a group. We will be beginning our year with a Family Mass so please mark your calendar for Monday, September 19th. These are not days off of class but days to come and worship the Lord. **Attendance will be taken on these days.**

Calendar

You will find a calendar of class sessions for the year with this mailing. Please note that this is a working calendar and changes can be made to it at any time.

Volunteers

We could not run our program without the large number of people who give of their time and talents. We pray that you consider joining us as a volunteer in this program by becoming a catechist, substitute or assistant in our program. If you don't feel you are being called to volunteer in our after school program but in another area in the parish please contact us.

I am looking forward to next year and working with you and your family. If you have any questions or need to contact me please feel free to email. You can contact me at the Faith Formation office until June 15th. If you need to reach me over the summer you can leave a message at the Faith Formation Office or email me and I will get back to you. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

God Bless,

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