



# The Community of SAINT PATRICK

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1807 Poplar Street  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47803

*Donna Wenstrup*  
*Director of Religious Education*  
donna.wenstrup@saintpat.org

Phone: 812-232-8518  
Fax: 812-232-3312

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Dear Parent,

I hope you are enjoying a relaxing summer! It's time to register for Religious Education Classes for the fall.

According to Pew US Religious Study in 2008, only 30% of American adults who were raised Catholic are still practicing their faith. We certainly live in a secular society at a time of great apostasy, when many are abandoning their faith. So how do we raise our children to love Jesus and stay in community?

Religious Education is extremely important for people of all ages, since faith is a life long journey of walking with our Lord, and growing in love with Him. Children especially need religious education, as it provides the foundational knowledge and experiences necessary to become a disciple. This groundwork can be a support to them during the transition of their teenage years.

As a parent, you are your child's first and primary catechist. The parish can assist you by providing the curriculum the Archdiocese of Indianapolis wants each child to know at each grade level, as well as trained catechists to teach these objectives. The parish offers Children's Liturgies to provide sacramental graces and to foster an interest in ministry. We will be presenting the Circle of Grace Program again this year, to help children develop a healthy worldview in which they show respect for themselves and others. What is new this year, is that we are offering a chastity education program for those students in grades PK/K-8. Parents of children in those grades can look forward to a Parent meeting to explain this new program on Sunday, September 14th at 10:30am in Room A of the Family Life Center.

In Parish Religious Education, each grade has a unique focus, with objectives which are not necessarily taught at any of the other grade levels. Therefore, attendance at each grade level is very important for a child to gain a basic overall knowledge of the Catholic Faith.

Kindergarten presents God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, along with the Bible and Mary.

First Grade introduces the Triune God and the life of prayer, to foster love and trust in God.

Second Grade prepares for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist.

Third Grade learns of God's chosen people, and their family is an important part of this Church.

Fourth Grade understands their goal in life and God's Plan leads us to heaven.

Fifth Grade focuses on the Sunday Gospel Readings and the Creed.

Sixth Grade learns the moral law, the Mass, and to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Seventh Grade treasures the sacraments as sources of grace to build virtues.

Eight Grade looks at the Church as Christ's Body and the teachings of the Magisterium in order to face the confusion and secularism of modern-day society.

As you can see, attendance at each grade level is necessary to gain a basic knowledge of our faith, and each year is important to bring children to God at level they can understand.

Please find enclosed the registration form and calendar for this year's religious education program. **Note that parents and children attend the first class together on Sunday, August 17th at 10:30am in the cafeteria.** Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, scheduling conflicts, or ideas. May God bless you and your family as we grow together as disciples.

Sincerely,  
Donna Wenstrup