

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**  
**Religious Education Program/CCD**  
**2023-2024**  
*Welcome Back!*

**PLEASE get Update of Info. 2023-2024 returned by Wednesday, August 23rd, or as soon as possible! Thank you! That includes everyone... not just new students! This shows me who is coming to REP/CCD this year!!**

**CCD Registration envelopes will also be available at Mass beginning this weekend, Aug. 5th/6th!!  
Take home, fill out and return at the next Mass or when convenient for you!  
There will be a box labeled for returned forms!**

**MANDATORY CCD Parent Meeting & 1st Class– Wed., Aug. 23rd at 6:30pm at Parish Hall There will be a parent meeting - 6:30pm - 7:00pm -- it is MANDATORY! Please attend! \*Students will be in class at that time as well... Meal & fellowship after meeting!**

**\*\*Ice Breakers, Welcome to Class/"Get to know you!" games! Hotdogs & Snowcones will be served at 7pm! \*\***

**CATECHETICAL SUNDAY, SEPT. 17<sup>TH</sup> – DONUTS & JUICE/COFFEE/MILK WILL BE SERVED AFTER MASS! LET'S CELEBRATE OUR TEACHERS!   \*\*I NEED HELPERS FOR SERVING DONUTS!\*\***

**Class Information:**

- **Classes will begin at 6:45pm on Wednesday evenings. If students have older siblings, they can wait with their parents until their older sibling's class is over.**
- **Please refrain from disturbing the classes that are in the main hall. We understand that you may want to speak with other parents, but please do it outside so classes can focus on their learning and not get distracted! Thank you for your help & support!**

**\*Classes end at...**

**Pre-K & K ends at 7:45pm - PARENTS MUST COME IN TO GET THEIR CHILDREN AT 7:45PM!**  
**1st Grade through HS ends at 8:00pm**

**\*\*\* Father Ranjan will meet with the children in classes on occasion.\*\*\***  
**When class is dismissed, students are to be picked up in the hall... Thank you!**

- We will have 10 groups this year \* Subs/Helpers – Patricia Balz/Melody Vrana
  - Our Altar Server Coordinators are Krystal Sellars & Christina Brenek! We thank them for helping our servers feel more comfortable as they aid in training & support! They also help schedule the servers!
- |  |   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Christina Brenek/Meagan Cook</b></li><li>• <b>Pauline Marek/Sarah Hejl</b></li><li>• <b>Letha Novosad/Melissa Souhrada</b></li><li>• <b>Crystal Cowen/Lacy Jahns</b></li><li>• <b>Patty Glasgow/Sherri Stumbaugh</b></li><li>• <b>Kristen Parker/ Helper</b></li><li>• <b>Mary Beth Gaspard (Special Needs)</b></li><li>• <b>Sara Fuchs</b></li><li>• <b>Rose Marie Schoppe / Barbara Brenek</b></li><li>• <b>Michael/Ricky Brenek &amp; Cheyenne Jahns</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Group 1 - Pre-Kindergarten</b></li><li><b>Group 2 - Kindergarten</b></li><li><b>Group 3 - 1st Grade (1<sup>st</sup> Year R&amp;C)</b></li><li><b>Group 4 - 2nd Grade (2<sup>nd</sup> Year R&amp;C)</b></li><li><b>Group 5 – 3rd/4th Grade</b></li><li><b>Group 6 – 5th/6th Grade</b></li><li><b>Group 7 - 6th Grade</b></li><li><b>Group 8 - 1st Year Confirmation Prep Class</b></li><li><b>Group 9-Confirmation MS(2nd year prep)</b></li><li><b>Group 10 - Post Confirmation/HS</b></li></ul> |
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## CCD Expectations:

- Follow Covid-19/Illness Protocol & Procedures --  
\*\*It is pretty simple -- If your child feels unwell and/or has a temp. of 99.5 or higher, please keep your child at home. Please let your teacher know and/or let Mrs. Hoelscher know. We can email and/or send the missed lesson to you to go over with your child! We hope they feel better soon!

*(\*\*Disinfecting - We will clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched in common before and after a room or other space as is used for a Parish Activity. Individuals participating in a Parish Activity are to assist when requested. Hand Sanitizers - We will provide hand sanitizer stations at convenient locations in the Parish hall and will seek to have hand sanitizers in or near a room while in use for a Parish Activity. The Parish encourages individuals to wash hands frequently and carry personal hand sanitizers.)*

- **Ethics In Ministry Lessons** – Kinder. through 6th grade lessons will be completed during the year. Confirmation & Post Confirmation EIM retreat will be held TBD --More details to come! Parents will handle some of the lessons and the teachers will complete the rest of the lessons.
- **Attendance: Excessive absences (3+) or excessive tardiness (5+) may result in students having to repeat the grade the next year. These cases will be discussed with Father Ranjan and the parents prior to decisions being made. If children are going to miss class, we ask the parents to contact the teacher for the lesson so they can remain current. You can text Shirley Hoelscher, 254-541-7950, and/or the teacher.**

**\*\*\*If your child is in a Sacrament year, it is MOST important that they attend their classes as much as possible!! \*\*\***

**\*\*Parents will be notified after the 3rd absence... Teachers will be reaching out to parents if they see a pattern of absences and check on you and your child!**

- CYO (MS & HS) meetings will be held the first Wednesday of the month! Parents, please encourage your children to be a part of this great group! It is a service to our community and it will strengthen your child's walk with our Lord! We are hoping to make this group even more exciting for the upcoming year!!
- We will work on having ADORATION once a semester!! More news to come about that soon!
- Altar serving is a huge part of service to our church that we hope ALL students can be a part of once they complete the sacrament of First Communion (usually at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade). If your child has completed the sacrament of First Communion, please discuss with your child this wonderful way to serve your church home! We need more servers and the more we have... the bigger rotation we will have so you only have to do it a few times a year! High school students AND Seniors are asked to stick with us until they graduate! We need YOU to mentor our little ones! **They look UP to YOU -- Play on God's field, alter serve!** -- Training dates will be posted soon!!
- High school students that attend CCD on Wed's. get to help with the yearly VBS program and become leaders! Our little ones need to get to know our high school kids, & they look up to them! There will be some great activities planned for our high school students, they shouldn't miss out!!
- Baptismal certificates are required for students enrolled in sacrament classes AND students transferring from another parish. Students attending classes here from another parish will have to bring a letter of consent from their pastor. Also, if you are transferring a student, Religious Education attendance records are required. Students must have attended the First Grade to be enrolled in First Communion Class and Seventh and Eighth Grades to be enrolled in Confirmation preparation classes. (Communion candidates are Second Grade and Confirmation candidates are Ninth Grade.) Unless other decisions have been determined. \*Exceptions only in rare cases!

- If classes are canceled, parents will be contacted by Facebook message, email and/or phone. It is important for the CCD office to have current phone #'s, email addresses and contact persons for emergency reasons. We will follow area school closings via radio/TV station notices for weather/other delays/cancellations...
- If we have any ongoing behavioral problems with a student, parents will be contacted. Parents must meet with the teacher and the coordinator to discuss the situation. If the problem persists, we will refer the student to the Priest, we will ask that the student not be allowed back to class until the teacher and coordinator are confident that the situation is resolved.

### **Class/Church Rules:**

- Youth Sundays will be the third Sunday of each month, unless noted otherwise on the schedule. During Youth Sundays, students will help lead in praying the Rosary, will proclaim the scriptures at Mass / Lector, & help with being an Usher, Altar Servers, Presenters of the Gifts & will ask one question of Father Ranjan. The schedule is below of who is responsible for each month. The Wed. CCD class before Youth Sunday will be a time that those students to pick the part, they will be responsible for and be given time to practice together as a class. The students that select the readings may have their teacher or parent stand up with them at Mass for comfort & reassurance. Copies of the readings will go home with readers to help them practice and get prepared ahead of time!
- All Youth should be at Youth Sunday early (\*by 7:50am!) to fully participate in all parts of Youth Sunday Mass! Children will sit with their parents and will get up as needed to fulfill their responsibilities for Youth Sunday!

### **\*\*Youth Sundays -- 3rd Sunday of the Month\*\***

1. Oct. 15 - High School
2. Nov. 19 - Confirmation Class
3. Dec. 17 - 6th Grade & 1st Grade
4. Jan. 21 - 3rd Grade & Kindergarten
5. Feb. 18 - 2nd Grade & Pre-K
6. Mar. 17 - 4th & 5th/6th Grade
7. April 21 - Confirmation Class
8. May 19 - Senior Recognition/Mix of classes

- When in church, please show respect for God by sitting still and quiet, and saying the prayers of the Mass. When you show reverence to God in Church, that is what you are to do in Church, everyone else is respected!
- Please show respect to your teacher and classmates. Teachers put time and effort into preparing lessons, and each time one stops to discipline a student or class, it disrespects the time and effort that the teacher has provided for their students. Remember, this is NOT a paying job; we are a group of volunteers working towards helping your children grow in their faith & walk with the Lord!
- Please respect the property. Be quiet and still in church. Do not put your feet on the seats or back of the pew in front of you. Do not chew gum, drink or eat in church. When leaving church, no running, yelling, pushing or fighting. Enter the hall with respect for fellow students. Do not sit on tables or write on anything other than what is provided for you. There is to be no running in the hall nor is there to be any horseplay in the restrooms.

**\*\*Please do not wear hats or caps in the building during CCD and/or Mass.\*\***

- Please do not bring anything to CCD that is not conducive to a religious learning environment. **All Cell phones and iPods must be turned off or turned in to the CCD teacher when entering class and are not to be turned back on until classes dismiss.**
- Do not bring candy, toys, sodas or gum to class. CCD Teachers will let you know about their snack preferences and if a snack will be made available. These may be provided for everyone when a teacher plans a party. Please make sure classrooms are clean when you leave. The Knights of Columbus may provide supper for the classes, volunteers and parents a few times during the year.

**\*\*Parents, please feel free to volunteer in your child's classrooms, we would love to have you!**

**\*\*Please look at the dates of events for the upcoming year on the next page!!**

**We're looking forward to a great year! If you have any questions or comments, feel free to call or email:**

**Blessings to ALL!!!**

**Shirley Hoelscher - DRE  
254-541-7950  
svwallace@hotmail.com  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church**

# St. Joseph's CCD/REP Dates 2023-2024

- **CCD Parent Meeting & 1st Class - Wed., Aug. 23rd**  
Meeting & Class 6:30pm – 7:00pm Meal, Snow-cones & fellowship 7:00pm -8:00pm
- **CATECHETICAL SUNDAY– Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> we will honor our 2023 – 2024 CCD teachers - (Donuts & Coffee/Juice served afterwards outside church - need helpers to serve refreshments!)**
- **Church Picnic – Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – Please look at the Work-List & do your part!**
- **Youth Sunday & First Reconciliation/First Communion Recognition/Blessing - Sunday, Oct. 15th**  
**(\*\*All First reconciliation and First Communion students must attend this Sunday!)**  
High School will lead Youth Sunday Mass!
- **Rosary of Lights – Wed., Oct. 18th – Need parents to help! Thanks!**
- **5th Annual Trunk or Treat – Wed., Oct. 25th from 6:30pm – 8:00pm - Nachos, Hotdogs, Desserts served & Games -- All church families invited as well as the community to decorate a table or trunk, bring a game & give candy out to the kids!**
- **All Saints Day Mass - Wed., Nov. 1st**
- **CYO Cemetery Cleanup – Sat. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**
- **EIM retreat for Confirmation 6th/9th & Post Confirmation classes – TBD - More details to come! (Nov. Date maybe the 4th?? -- Needs to be confirmed! Maybe same day as Cemetery cleanup!)**
- **Veterans Day Ceremony (after Mass) – Sunday, Nov. 5th - Following at the cemetery... families help place flags & flowers on gravesites.**
- **Youth Sunday & Confirmation Student Recognition/Blessing - Sunday, Nov. 19th \*(All Confirmation students must attend this Sunday!) Confirmation students will lead Youth Sunday!**
- **Family Event – Advent Wreath/Jesse Tree - Sunday., Nov. 19th evening event with Family Potluck**
- **No CCD – Wed., Nov. 22nd due to the Thanksgiving holiday**
- **Wed., Dec. 6th - St. Nicholas Day Surprise**
- **First Reconciliation & Retreat - Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2023**
- **Christmas Pageant – Sun., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*Practices will be on Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th**

- **No CCD classes - Dec. 27th & Jan. 3rd due to Christmas Holidays & Break**
- **CCD classes resume from holidays - Wed., Jan. 10th - Epiphany Party (Given by the Altar Society)**
- **Lenten Cocoon Making Wed., Feb. 7th (\*celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb. 7th) - We will have class during Bell County Youth Fair.**
- **Ash Wednesday Mass - Feb. 14th**
- **Shadow Stations – Wed., March 6<sup>th</sup> – Invite the whole parish to attend!**
- **No CCD Wed., March 13th– Spring Break**
- **Butterfly Making Event in class – Wed., March 20th & 27th**
- **Spring Dinner/Palm Sunday – March 24th - Please see Work-List and help out!**
- **Easter Sunday – Sunday, March 31, 2024**
- **First Communion Retreat – Sat., April 20, 2024**
- **First Communion - Sunday, April 28th (Breakfast in Parish Hall - Donuts, fruit, coffee & juice**
- **May Crowning – Sunday, May 5th (Children proceed in with Father Ranjan and bring flowers)**
- **Mother's Day – Sunday, May 12, 2024**
- **Last Day of CCD – Wed., May 8th (Pizza Party given by Altar Society)**
- **Senior Recognition – Sunday, May 19th (Breakfast served - Senior choice menu in parish hall)**
- **Vacation Bible School – Saturday June (TBD)**

**\*\*Confirmation Date ??? -- In Year 2 - Will need to put dates in to select!!**