



# Office of Religious Education St. Joseph Church

August, 2025

Dear Eighth Grade Families,

Peace and blessings to you and your family! My name is Susan Sless and I am honored to introduce myself as the new Coordinator of the Religious Education Program here at St. Joseph's Parish. I am truly excited to join this vibrant parish community and to walk alongside you as we guide our children in growing deeper in their Catholic faith.

As an 8<sup>th</sup> Grader, your teen is entering into their final preparation for Confirmation in the Catholic Church. The following is some important information regarding the details of his/her Confirmation preparation.

**A Confirmation Parent Meeting** will be held on **Monday, September 29th @ 6 p.m. in Church for all PREP and SJRS students, together with a parent/guardian**, who plan to receive Confirmation at St. Joseph Church this Spring. The meeting will include basic information for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade families on preparations leading up to and including the day of the sacrament.

Please continue to encourage your son/daughter to attend Mass every week for the Lord's Day, and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. The relationship with our Eucharistic Lord and contact with His merciful love is *vital* for the sacramental preparation of Confirmation.

Listed below are upcoming events, activities, workshops and requirements for students preparing for Confirmation. The workshops are the main form of preparation for **PREP** students, only. SJRS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion Teacher will prepare the SJRS students in class. **Please make note of which of the following events your son/daughter must attend and mark your calendars accordingly, as all Confirmation activities are MANDATORY (with the exception of the 10/5 Walk for the Poor, but we hope you'll join us.)**

## 2025

- **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> (PREP & SJRS):** St. Vincent DePaul Walk for the Poor - over the Somers Point/Ocean City Bridge, Somers Point, NJ (group service project – participation will fulfill 2 hours of service). - 11:00 am/registration/12:00 noon/walk.
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- **Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> (PREP & SJRS):** Healing Ministry Presentation 6:00-7:30 in Church Hall.
- **Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> (PREP & SJRS):** Confirmation Enrollment Mass @12pm in St. Joseph Church.
- **Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> (PREP):** Confirmation Workshop #1 – 6:00-7:30 pm in St. Joseph Regional School.
- **Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> (PREP):** Confirmation Workshop #2 – 6:00-7:30 pm in St. Joseph Regional School.
- **Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> (PREP):** Advent Confessions @6pm in St. Joseph Church.
- **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (PREP & SJRS):** Confirmation Retreat by JMJ Missions (12:00-4:00 pm followed by 4:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph Church).

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## 2026

- **Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> (PREP):** Confirmation Workshop #3 – 6:00-7:30 pm in St. Joseph Regional School.
- **Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> (PREP):** Confirmation Workshop #4 - 6:00-7:30 pm in St. Joseph Regional School.
- **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> (PREP):** Lent Confessions @6pm in St. Joseph Church.

**10+ SERVICE HOURS MUST BE COMPLETED BY February 23, 2026.** Preferably, students complete a minimum of 5+ hours in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and a minimum of 5+ hours in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Service hours should include service for the church as well as service in the works of mercy (feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, etc.). Attached please find a list of Service Opportunities at St. Joseph this year. Please contact me via phone or email if you are interested in volunteering for any of the events and activities at our parish. A sign-up sheet for events will also be available at the parent meeting in September.

**SAINT REPORT:** Each confirmation student is to research and write a report on the saint whose name they will chose for Confirmation. Guidelines for the report are included in the parent packet which will be distributed at the Confirmation Parent Meeting in September. For SJRS students, your 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion Teacher will make this a required assignment for class.

We look forward to working with you during this new Religious Education year. We plan to continue our in-person family events within the Religious Education program as well as the greater St. Joseph parish community. Multiple family events have been scheduled this year, so you have the flexibility to chose which events work for your family's interest and schedule. These events provide an opportunity for fun, faith and fellowship with your parish family, and attendance at **6** family events during the school year is required by the Diocese of Camden for our PREP students. SJRS families are also invited and encouraged to attend. Attached is a tentative schedule of the events we are planning. As in the past, we will utilize SignUp Genius to register for events, and attendance slips and a drop box will be available at each event to record your participation.

If you have any questions or concerns at this time, please call (609) 927-3568 or via email at [reled@stjosephsomerspoint.org](mailto:reled@stjosephsomerspoint.org).

I pray you all have a safe and blessed rest of the summer, and may the peace of the Lord be with you and your family. **See you on September 29<sup>th</sup>!**

Blessings,

Susan Sless

cc: Fr. Jaromir Michalak, Pastor  
Dr. Janice DeCicco Fipp, Principal  
SJRS 6-8<sup>th</sup> Religion Teacher  
Meg Hoerner, PREP Catechist  
Rebeca Jomarron