

**ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE CHURCH**  
Office of Christian Formation  
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March 29, 2026

Greetings St. Jude Families!

So, I was approached the other week by a middle-school parent of a student who has only been in our Religious Ed program for a few years. She said to me, *"you know, I wanted you to know how much my child is really enjoying their time in the classes here. They never much enjoyed going to Religious Ed at our previous parish. It was a struggle to get them there. But here, they said the teacher doesn't talk the entire class and there's activities, and videos and conversation. I really feel, for the first time they're paying attention to their faith."*

Like a "proud parent" myself, I smiled broadly knowing that we are blessed here at St. Jude's but, more so, that all of the credit for this goes to the grace of God and our volunteer faith-filled and faith-driven teachers/catechists and staff: a staff that cumulatively has an astounding 346-years of exclusively Religious Education instructional service time. We've had parishioners offer to volunteer, and then complain that we didn't call on them. I have to explain to them that our teachers and staff "don't leave!" In fact, on average, a volunteer in our Religious Ed program has 9.4-years of service! That's unheard of!

This kind of longevity, commitment, and individual understanding & familiarity makes our program strong - our teachers experienced - our practices "traditional and classic" - and our mission and message consistent always with the true teachings of our Catholic Faith. Our staff truly is a model for being *"rooted in faith & service,"* and make no mistake, that's exactly what they are hoping to instill in your children.

But, in order for your children to receive these gifts from our teachers, YOU need to take the first step of properly ensuring their enrollment AND attendance in our growing programs by registering them NOW for the 2026-27 year. Trust me, every year is becoming a greater challenge to confirm that every child has a seat in the time and session of their first choice. The easiest way to guarantee that is to register as EARLY as possible as we begin to flirt with a total enrollment nearing 300 children & young people.

I ask that you complete the 2026-27 registration forms that have been provided to you; or, more conveniently, visit our web site ([stjudelewes.org](http://stjudelewes.org)) and complete our on-line registration materials for ALL of your children ages 3 through 15. **But, most importantly, don't delay.** Do it right now as we WILL run out of space in some of the sections/grades of our Sunday morning session.

As always, we recognize that YOU, our parents, are the primary educators of your children in the Faith. Our programs are here to support you in this sacred responsibility, as you attempt to ensure that EVERYONE in your family, like our staff, is *"Rooted in Faith & Service."*

May God Bless you all,

*Michael J. McShane*

Michael J. McShane  
Director of Religious Education

cc: Rev. Brian Lewis

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