



# Religious Education Program

## St. Regis Mission Church

(September 2017)



The Religious Education Program of the St. Regis Church is gearing up for the new religious education year, and would like to begin with a sharing of information on some of the programs that will be made available. The following are some programs that have been traditionally available, but new ideas are welcomed: preparation classes for the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation, Adult Formation, RCIA (Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults), Children's Mass and Children's Liturgy. Other programs available are altar serving, lectors, ushers, church cleaning, baptism preparation, to name a few. Some of these programs are briefly explained in the following text, and more detailed information may be obtained by the calling 518-358-2931, or email [saintkateri3@gmail.com](mailto:saintkateri3@gmail.com), or contact Laura Morris, Religious Education Coordinator.



**Saint Kateri Tekakwitha:** During the planning and classroom sessions for all the Sacraments and programs, there will be sessions focused on Saint Kateri Tekakwitha; her life story as a Mohawk woman, her feast days, the process of becoming a saint, and her prayer that we recite in her honor, and some crafts.



### **First Communion**



The Sacrament of First Communion is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation. It is received next after the Sacrament of Baptism. The child should be in grade 2, or higher. The candidates will be on a journey to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. They will learn about the ways Jesus shares his life with us; pray as Jesus did; celebrate God's love, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist; choose to follow God's love by loving God and others; share God's gifts with family and friends; and live out the gift of faith by serving the needs of others. There will be visits to the church to learn about the order of Mass, learn the proper names of objects in the church, participation in Children's Mass, workshops such as stole making, craft making for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter, singing hymns (music), and learn the common prayers in our Mohawk language, namely the Lord's Prayer, and especially learning the life story of our St. Kateri Tekakwitha, and other saints. All candidates will be required to attend Mass on the weekend during the preparation period and should continue thereafter. If the family is out of town, look for a Church in that location and attend.

***New this year regarding the locations for First Communion only:*** Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Center (Hogansburg), will hold the traditional sessions on Thursday, from 6 to 7 pm beginning November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. The Tri-District Elders Lodge (Kawehnoke) is the new location convenient for families residing on Kawehnoke and Cornwall, on Tuesday from 6 to 7 pm beginning November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. A formal schedule will be available at the first class for both locations. The tentative celebration date is May 6, 2018. The parents/guardians will be required to attend the first class for each location respectively for orientation and information.

### **Confirmation**



The celebration of Confirmation is a celebration of our faith in the Holy Spirit. After Baptism, along with the First Communion, it completes the baptismal graces and fully initiates the baptized into the Catholic Church. Participation in our Confirmation classes will further provide and explore the meaning of the Sacrament of Confirmation. During the course of the program, we will have resources and presentations by religious and community members on topics such as the Life Story of St.

Kateri and the history, music in the Mohawk language, traditional teachings about our culture and practices, vocations, community service project, attendance at a retreat, just to name a few. If the child/youth has been baptized, but not received the Sacrament of First Communion/Holy Eucharist, they can still register and they can prepare to receive before the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation program is offered to students in Grades 7 & 8, and high school. All classes are at the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Center beginning November 1, 2017 at 6 pm. Parents and child must attend for orientation and a detailed schedule.

**Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the process in which adults are initiated into the Catholic Church. During the process, catechumens and candidates experience the faith through their parish community's witness as well as the liturgy of the Church. Through the RCIA journey, there is inquiry, catechesis and deep spiritual preparation. RCIA is a transforming process for those being welcomed into full communion with the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation). The celebration for RCIA takes place during the Easter Vigil. Once the participants have entered fully into the Church during the Easter Vigil, it is just as important to continue to support and guide them into fully participating in the life of the Church.



### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**



While children's Liturgy of the Word plays an important part in drawing children into worship, it also fosters knowledge of liturgy and scripture. At an early age, children become familiar with the flow of the Sunday liturgical celebrations. As they become comfortable with their involvement at liturgies and develop a sense of belonging in the community, it is hoped and anticipated that they will continue to grow as faithful, practicing members. The term "Children's Liturgy of the Word" refers to the practice of children leaving the Sunday assembly just before the Liturgy of the Word and gathering elsewhere to celebrate a separate Liturgy of the Word that is more appropriate to their level of understanding. Then, before the Eucharistic liturgy begins, the children are led back to the place where the adults have meanwhile celebrated their own Liturgy of the Word. First session will begin Sunday, October 22, 2017.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers play an integral role in the life of the Church. They are relied on for various tasks in the strengthening and encouraging of our Catholic faith, including participation in the success of the celebration of the Sacraments. As volunteers, we are all parents of our children, and we are all children of God. We would surely take responsibility for their health and well-being as they grow, just as God takes care of us. Our church is in dire need of volunteers to assist in every area of Church life. If you are interested, but unsure where you could help out, please visit our Church, and/or the Saint Kateri Center (Kateri Hall) to receive additional information. Each individual has a gift that can be expressed.



**How to register:** Registration forms for each program are available at the entrance of the Church at weekend Masses; at the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Center, Monday to Friday from 3 to 7 pm, and by email: [saintkateri3@gmail.com](mailto:saintkateri3@gmail.com); and coming soon on the Church website ([www.stregischurch.org](http://www.stregischurch.org)). ***Completed forms are to be returned to Laura Morris at the St. Kateri Center, or bring to the first class.***

*Niawenko:wa \*\*\* Thank you*

**God planted a seed of faith in our hearts so that all we had to do is water it with prayers, fertilize it with words of God, and cultivate it with lots of love.**