



**St. Joseph Religious Education Ministry**  
**OPEN HOUSE AT OTIS ELEMENTARY**  
**(where the weekly PreK-7<sup>th</sup> Grade Religious Education classes meet)**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> 9:15 – 10:15 am**

Hoping to boost attendance and enrollment for Sunday RE!!  
***Visit classes, see the curriculum, ask questions, share refreshments.***

Invite neighbors you know are Catholic. Invite friends and family.

**Dear Parishioners,**

**This year we have seen a dramatic drop in the enrollment and attendance at the Sunday Religious Education classes for PK – 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. *Parents and students, we truly miss you!***

Our faith family consists of everyone who is a member of St. Joseph Parish from Father Mike to the most recent newborn baptized into the Catholic faith and to the greater Catholic worldwide church. In baptism we promise to bring our children up in the faith of the Catholic Church. When you bring your child home for the first time you provide your child with food, clothing and, most importantly, love. By love and care they come to know that they are loved and are an important part of their family. Do they also know that they are an important part of an even greater family? God’s family here at St. Joseph’s? The Catholic family they were baptized into? We promise to ensure that they are an active member of our faith family, to know they are loved and an important part of their church family. Consider. If a member of our family does not interact with other members of the family they eventually drift away. The love is still there, the family still exists, but something is missing - unity, compassion, the ability to mesh with each other that makes the family unit whole, that makes it “one” and ensures its survival. The same is true with our faith family.

We need to show them not only how much God loves them, but also how important it is to be a part of His church family by providing them with every opportunity to be a part of this family.

For our children, the most important faith formation opportunity at the parish is our Religious Education Program. This is where they not only learn about God, but also to be part of God’s family at St. Joseph’s. Our home school and Catholic School students are getting a great religious education, but maybe they are missing the experience of creating a community of faith together with all our parish children at Sunday morning RE. What an amazing faith witness it would be to our students if our RE classes were overflowing!! The students would see and experience the priority of God, faith, and church community in their lives.

Our children need to know that they are a central part of our church family. Children work to build the Kingdom of God, too. **We are hoping that all parents will bring their children to Religious Education classes, and make it a priority to attend weekly. We hope to see many parents and families at the Religious Education Open House on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Please see the bulletin or the parish website, [stjoeparish.org.](http://stjoeparish.org.), or call 926-7133 for more information.

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Mike

Teresa McCann (Director of Religious Education)