

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Family dinners...

We all want to prioritize faith in our lives, but it's not always easy in today's busy world -- especially if you've got a young family! Between your work and the kids' school, homework and activities, it can be a bit overwhelming. Of course there's only one thing that gives us true meaning and purpose amid all the running around. And it's also what our kids need most: the love and grace of God.



Our parish wants to support and encourage our families as they work hard to prioritize their kids' relationship with Christ. This year we added a free dinner on Mondays in between our two religious education sessions. Families can bring their kids to religion class and not have to worry about making dinner. They can grab a bite to eat right here at Saint Joe's!

Family Ministries Coordinator Becky Davis has even included faith-based activities during some of the dinners, like when families assembled "blessing bags" for those in need, and filled out prayer chain links for their intentions. Becky shared that her favorite aspect of these meals is meeting "so many families that I might not otherwise get to know. On Monday evenings I get to sit down with them, share a meal, and hear their stories. It's been great!"



... served with love.

None of this could happen without incredible volunteers to prepare and serve the meals. John (far left) runs a tight ship in the kitchen, faithfully supported by Sheila, Mike and Phyllis (immediate left), Austin and Dave, among others. Our parish bakers have provided delicious home-baked cookies and brownies for dessert. And often families who attend stick around afterwards to help cleanup! It's truly a community endeavor. Phyllis speaks for the whole team when she says they "enjoy serving the Lord through the Religious Education Program."

These dinners are part of the "fellowship" dimension of our parish's 5-year plan. Learn more at stjosephmech.org/5-year-plan.

