

St. Jude Faith Formation 2023-2024

FAITH IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY.



We are grateful to partner with you in the faith formation of your children! Parenting really is at the heart of discipleship. As parents, when you present your children for baptism and raise them in faith, you are answering Jesus' call to "Go and make disciples". (Matthew 28:19)

Here at St. Jude, we partner with your family as you grow in a personal relationship with Jesus, be his disciples and serve him in mission.

Faith Formation Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 4 pm

Evening Hours by Appointment

The Faith Formation Office is closed on Friday.

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Parents are the greatest teachers of the faith!

When it comes to raising children in faith, parents matter more than any other factor. Parents are the primary educators of their children. They learn the basics of life from you, they look up to you, listen to what you teach, pick up your mannerisms and learn from your example. You make the deepest impression on them! It is important, then, that you also lead your children to a relationship with Jesus through your example by praying with them, going to the Mass and Sacraments with them, and talking about God's love with them.

It is through your love of God that they will develop their own love for God deep in their hearts!

Faith Formation is the lifelong process of our communal journey of coming to know God. The Catholic Community of St. Jude envisions this journey as a way to grow in knowledge of our shared faith, to nurture our intimate relationship with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to fulfill our baptismal call as disciples of Jesus Christ. We utilize a holistic approach, in accordance with the General Directory of Catechesis, to teach what it means to **be** Catholic, to teach what one should **know** about the Catholic faith and prepare each person to **live** as a Catholic. It is through encountering Jesus that our children will recognize and follow him and this requires an intentional journey, rather than a series of tasks.

The parent/guardian and home life provide the primary source of Faith Formation for a child. The faith experience in one's home will impact one's participation in religious faith-building far more than any catechetical program. A home experience focused on knowing, loving and serving God through scripture, prayer and service is essential for establishing a hunger for lifelong, spiritual growth. St. Jude Faith Formation partners with you and offers a multi-component approach to Faith Formation that emphasizes both learning and living the faith in the home and in the community.

The Mass

Keep holy the Sabbath Day (7 reflections required for Grades 1 - 8)

All families enrolled in the St. Jude Faith Formation program are expected to participate in the Sunday Mass and in Masses for all Holy Days of Obligation. In the Catholic Mass, we gather to worship and praise God. We also receive the True Presence of God through Jesus in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the fulfillment of God's covenant with us - His promise to be with us always. With the gift of Christ's presence in our midst, our Church is truly blessed.

Faith Formation families should participate weekly in Catholic Mass and stay centered on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. Families are expected to complete **seven** monthly *Family Catholic Mass Reflections* during the Faith Formation year. The reflection is designed to help facilitate conversations before and after your family's Mass experience. *Family Catholic Mass Reflections* can be submitted online on our website.

St. Jude offers a Sunday evening Teen Mass that is specifically designed for youth and their families; to re-engage and empower youth to understand, embrace and live out discipleship. The Teen Mass creatively uses music, preaching and engaging extras to capture your children's attention, make them think and empower them to take action - specifically, to understand, embrace and live as present-day followers of Jesus.

<u>DAILY MASSES</u>	<u>WEEKEND MASSES</u>
Monday - Friday 7:30 am	Saturday 5 pm Sunday 7 am, 9 am & 11 am 6:30 pm

Livestreamed Masses can be found at <http://stjudes.org/live-stream-9am-mass/>.

Explore 4 - The Life of the Parish

A “living” component of our Faith Formation program (4 reflections required for Grades 1 - 8)

Children need to see us “being Church” together. We have to ask ourselves, “Do we practice the kind of church we want our children to have?” It is in the life of the parish that children truly see us being Church together. It is here that they see us living our faith.

With “Explore 4”, families are expected to participate in at least 4 events sponsored or promoted by St. Jude or the Diocese of Joliet during the course of each Faith Formation year. These events are opportunities to help us explore and grow in our faith and community life.

An Explore 4 Reflection form is available online for your family to reflect on your experience after attending/participating in an activity. Families should submit reflections for 4 **different** events or activities. Any event that happens at St. Jude that is not Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation can be an Explore 4 opportunity as long as you complete and submit a reflection form. Sacramental preparation does count toward the Explore 4 expectation.

We have a growing list of suggested activities below and on our website. These opportunities are focused on everyday living of our faith as well as learning the traditions of our faith. This is not an all-encompassing list. If your family does something not on our list that is helping you continue to grow in faith at home, please ask us if it would be acceptable to reflect on this activity and write about your experience.

Information about Explore 4 opportunities will be found in your monthly Faith Formation Newsletter, in the parish bulletin, on our website and Facebook page.

Upcoming and On-Going Explore 4 Opportunities

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Bible Study Christmas Cantata College Care Packages (October 25) Elizabeth Ministry Extraordinary Minister of Communion Faith Formation Parent Sessions Family Advent Wreath Making Kits Giving Tree Volunteerism Good Friday Crosswalk (March 29) Knights of Columbus Learning Events by Ministries Lenten Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Lenten Stations of the Cross Life in the Spirit Prayer Group Liturgy of the Hours	Making Valentines for the Elderly Meal Angels Men’s Faith Group Men’s Ministry Prayer Group Music Ministries OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation for Adults Parish Mission (February/March 2024) Peace and Social Justice Rake and Run Respect Life Ministry Rosary for Life Service Opportunities Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper (March 28) Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion (March 29) Spring Parish Day of Service St. Francis Pet Blessing (October 1) Welcome Retreat
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Preparation for the Reception of Sacraments

There is a two year preparation period for the reception of Sacraments in the Diocese of Joliet as mandated by the Office of the Bishop. This preparation is in addition to attendance in regular and ongoing Faith Formation. If a child comes from another faith formation/religious education program or a Catholic school, they still will be expected to go through our sacramental preparation sessions. Exceptions may be made if the director/principal of their former program provides us with written testimony to the fact that the youth has received preparation under their direction and in accordance with the Diocese of Joliet or their home diocese.

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist are typically received in a child's second consecutive year of family Faith Formation. Children as young as 2nd grade are considered to have reached the age of reason eligible to receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist as long as they have received 2 consecutive years of formation. In the younger grades, children receive two years of religious instruction with additional preparation for the Sacraments in the second year. Children are placed in their grade-level class for general faith formation as most of the Sacramental preparation is done outside the classroom. Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in our parish takes the form of family instruction outside of the regular monthly faith formation sessions. This is a faith journey for the whole family as we renew our understanding of and commitment to the gifts of grace we receive in the Sacraments. Following all family sacramental preparation sessions, activity materials will be sent home with the families to help parents continue sacramental preparation at home.

There will be a preparation session for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Children will then have the opportunity to receive the sacrament in the weeks that follow this preparation session. There will be a family retreat and family practice in preparation for First Eucharist. Sacramental preparation does count toward the family Explore 4 expectation if a reflection is completed. Seven monthly Family Catholic Mass and four Explore 4 reflection forms are expected each year from each family. The dates for the reception of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be assigned (see page 6 for tentative dates).

Children often begin in our program in the older grades and are in need of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Each of these situations will be handled in a pastoral manner and considered on an individual basis, but **two years of formal instruction and preparation is the *minimum***. Children who have missed years of Faith Formation may be required to make up that formation.

Confirmation

Teens who express a desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation may do so after two consecutive years of participation in Junior High Youth Ministry Faith Formation (completing the theme of the month discussions with parents and meeting regularly with their mentor and small group). The earliest St. Jude will Confirm a teen is at the end of 8th grade; however, those in high school are welcome to participate in the preparation sessions when they are ready to do so. Sacramental preparation takes the form of three Catholic Skills Workshops in the first year (Scripture Skills, Catholic Mass and Catholic Prayer) and three Confirmation preparation sessions in the second year as well as a retreat and service projects each year. The workshops and preparation sessions are intended for both youth and a parent or sponsor to attend and count toward the Explore 4 expectation with a written reflection. Seven monthly Family Catholic Mass and four Explore 4 reflection forms are expected each year from each family. Year Two teens are expected to write a report on their chosen patron saint, choose a sponsor and write a letter to our pastor requesting permission to be Confirmed.

Baptism

If your child has not been baptized or was baptized in another faith and is over the age of 7, please contact the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation regarding special preparation for your child.

If an adult desires to receive the Sacraments or wishes to become Catholic, please call the Director of Lifelong Faith Formation.

We look forward to this special preparation with your family!

Faith Formation Programs & Calendars

Families Living Faith (In-Person Learning for Grades 1 - 6)

In our Families Living Faith (FLF) program, children come together at St. Jude for an hour and a half session once per month. In these sessions, children are introduced to a new unit of study by working through the first chapter of the unit with catechists in age-appropriate classrooms. Parents are provided with resources to teach the next two chapters of each unit at home. Children then complete the unit review before their next session to assure that teaching occurred at home.



Families sign up for a specific session and attend that session throughout the year (see page 6 for tentative dates). Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received. Availability at each FLF session is limited due to space. Please register ASAP to receive first choice in schedule. We will make every effort to honor your request.

Please use Code–FLF and the session on the paper registration form

Families Called to Table (Home Learning for Grades 1 - 6)

Families Called to Table (FCT) is a completely homeschool Faith Formation program. Families receive curriculum support, including children's workbooks and scripted parent lesson plans. To assist parents in leading their child's faith formation completely at home, grade-level video lessons will be available that teach the first chapter of each unit. Parents are then expected to use the resources provided to teach the next two chapters of each unit at home and complete the unit review with their child to assure that teaching occurs at home.

Please use Code–FCT on the paper registration form

Families in the Families Living Faith and Families Called to Table programs are also expected to complete and submit **seven monthly Family Catholic Mass reflections forms** (see page 2) and **four Explore 4 reflection forms** each year (see page 3).

Through parent sessions, we will explore Scripture and Catholic Teaching at an adult level while also coaching parents on how to teach these concepts at home. Parents are the primary faith teachers of their children and we support you in this call. In these parent sessions, we delve into the themes and concepts the children will be learning in engaging and impactful ways through speakers, prayer experiences and faith sharing. Our faith journey is lifelong and never ends. Dates for parent sessions will be posted in the coming months.

Administrative Coordinator - Berni Kacor: bkacor@stjudes.org/815-463-4262



Families Living Faith

Tentative Schedule for 2023-2024
All dates are subject to change

<p><u>Sunday A 10:15 am</u> Code FLF Sun A</p> <p>September 17 October 1 November 5 January 7 February 4 March 3 April 7</p> <p><i>Plus four Explore 4 and seven Monthly Family Catholic Mass Reflections and seven Unit Reviews</i></p>	<p><u>Tuesday A 5:30 pm</u> Code FLF Tues A</p> <p>September 19 October 3 November 7 January 9 February 6 March 5 April 9</p> <p><i>Plus four Explore 4 and seven Monthly Family Catholic Mass Reflections and seven Unit Reviews</i></p>	<p><u>Wednesday A 5:30 pm</u> Code FLF Wed A</p> <p>September 20 October 4 November 8 January 10 February 7 March 6 April 10</p> <p><i>Plus four Explore 4 and seven Monthly Family Catholic Mass Reflections and seven Unit Reviews</i></p>	<p><i>Sacramental Preparation</i></p> <p>At least one parent is expected to participate in Sacramental Preparation with the child.</p> <p><u>First Reconciliation Family Preparation Sessions</u> Wednesday, December 6th OR Tuesday, December 12th 6:00 pm</p> <p><u>First Reconciliation Services</u> Tuesday, January 16th OR Wednesday, January 17th 6:00 pm</p> <p><u>First Eucharist Family Preparation Retreats</u> March 16th OR March 23rd OR April 6th time TBD</p> <p>First Eucharist Mass dates are May 4th OR 11th; First Eucharist Practice dates are on May 1st OR 8th; times and dates to be assigned.</p>
<p><u>Sunday B 10:15 am</u> Code FLF Sun B</p> <p>September 24 October 15 November 12 January 21 February 25 March 10 April 14</p> <p><i>Plus four Explore 4 and seven Monthly Family Catholic Mass Reflections and seven Unit Reviews</i></p>	<p><u>Tuesday B 6:00 pm</u> Code FLF Tues B</p> <p>September 26 October 17 November 14 January 23 February 27 March 12 April 16</p> <p><i>Plus four Explore 4 and seven Monthly Family Catholic Mass Reflections and seven Unit Reviews</i></p>	<p><u>Wednesday B 6:00 pm</u> Code FLF Wed B</p> <p>September 27 October 18 November 15 January 24 February 28 March 13 April 17</p> <p><i>Plus four Explore 4 and seven Monthly Family Catholic Mass Reflections and seven Unit Reviews</i></p>	

Parent Sessions

Parent sessions will be held in the Church or Franciscan Hall. We are working on the structure of the upcoming Faith Formation year's parent sessions and will post more information in the coming months!

Thank you for your patience.

Participation in parent sessions is strongly encouraged.



Junior High Youth Ministry (Grades 7 - 8) & High School Youth Ministry (Grades 9 - 12)

St. Jude Youth Ministry aims to inspire, empower and transform junior high and high school teens and their families to help them to grow in knowledge of their faith and create habits in faith practices of gratitude, prayer and Sacraments. Teens and parents have access to the LIFElong+ app (available as a free download for all smart phones, tablets and computers; scan the QR code in the upper left-hand corner for access). The app allows families to easily access high-quality evangelizing and catechizing content (videos, articles, links to Mass and prayer experiences, etc.). The app also allows teens to submit Mass, Explore 4 and stewardship reflections as well as their feedback and questions about the videos or articles.

Teens will also belong to a small group that meets regularly on Sunday or Monday (see page 8 for tentative dates). Mentors will be trained and supported by Faith Formation staff. Teen participants are expected to view and read the posted videos or articles on the app each month, discuss the theme with their family, submit a brief reflection on the app and develop faith habits of Scripture, Sacraments and service. Youth Ministry will offer service/stewardship events for teens and families to participate in. Teens and families are expected to attend Mass weekly. Teens are encouraged to attend Teen Mass with their small groups and families.

Year One teens, typically 7th graders, are required to attend three Catholic Skills Workshops (Scripture Skills, Catholic Mass and Catholic Prayer) and Year Two teens, typically 8th graders, must attend three Confirmation Preparation Sessions. Parents or sponsors are asked to accompany their teens at all of those sessions - counts for the Explore 4 expectation with a written reflection. In addition, both Year One and Year Two teens are expected to attend one retreat each year as well as participate in a variety of service projects for a total of 20 hours of service and complete one Stewardship Log with a Stewardship reflection. Families are also expected to complete and submit seven monthly Family Catholic Mass (see page 2) and four Explore 4 (see page 3) reflections each year.

Director of Junior & High School Youth Ministries - Matthew Krumdrick

815-463-4213/matthewk@stjudes.org

Coordinator of Youth Discipleship - Jen Lehardt

815-463-4266/jlehardt@stjudes.org

Adult and Teen Helpers Needed

- ***Adult mentor** for Junior High or High School small groups (meets once or twice a month, September through April).
- ***High School Teen Leader** for a Junior High small group (meets once or twice a month, September through April).
- ***Coordinate a liturgical ministry** for a Teen Mass once a month. You'll be trained and supported to empower teens to serve as greeters or readers. Musicians are also needed to lead worship.
- ***Service Coordinator** for a variety of service events throughout the year. You can select to contribute to any of the following: College care packages, Rake & Run, Card-making or create your own service.
- ***Prepare Treats** for teens at a variety of events throughout the year (bring cookies or snacks, serve ice cream or pizza, etc).

Contact Matthew Krumdrick or Jen Lehardt for more information on how you can contribute to the success of St. Jude Youth Ministry. This program only works with your help!

Tentative schedule for 2023-2024 - all dates subject to change
Please use Codes - JHYM 7/8 Sun or JHYM 7/8 Mon on the paper registration form



Junior High Youth Ministry

2023-2024

RELATIONSHIP DISCIPLESHIP MISSION

Junior High Youth Ministry inspires and empowers teens and families to develop and deepen a personal relationship with Jesus through relevant video content, family discussions, small group participation, engaging Teen Masses and meaningful service events. Teens and families will be equipped to grow in RELATIONSHIP (with each other and God through small group gatherings), DISCIPLESHIP (through Teen Masses) and MISSION (with a variety of meaningful stewardship events throughout the year).

FOR ALL TEENS

**Participate @ Teen Mass with your Small Group*

All teens will have a role and families are encouraged to attend each month.

Year #1:

Sunday time 4:45 - 6:15 pm; **Monday** time 6:30 - 8:00 pm

- *September 10: Kick-off Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ Sept 17 or 18: **Scripture Workshop** (w/parent)
- ☐ October 1 or 2: SMALL GROUP session
- * October 15: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ October 22 or 23: SMALL GROUP session
- ☐ November 5 or 6: SMALL GROUP session
- * November 12: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ December 3 or 4: SMALL GROUP session
- ☐ December 10: **Mass Workshop** (w/parent)
- * December 10: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- * January 7: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ January 21 or 22: **Prayer Workshop** (w/parent)
- ☐ February 4 or 5: SMALL GROUP session
- ☐ Saturday, February 10, 9am-12pm: Small Group Retreat
- * February 18: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ February/March: Parish Mission (date/time TBD)
- ☐ March 3 or 4: SMALL GROUP session
- * March 10: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ Wednesday, March 13: **Teen Reconciliation 7:00 pm**
- * April 7: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ April 14 or 15: SMALL GROUP session

Year #2:

Sunday time 4:45 - 6:15 pm; **Monday** time 6:30 - 8:00 pm

- *September 10: Kick-off Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ Sept 24 or 25: **Confirmation Preparation #1** (w/parent)
- ☐ October 1 or 2: SMALL GROUP session
- * October 15: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ October 22 or 23: SMALL GROUP session
- ☐ November 5 or 6: SMALL GROUP session
- * November 12: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ December 3 or 4: SMALL GROUP session
- ☐ December 10: **Mass Workshop** (w/parent)
- * December 10: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- * January 7: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ January 7 or 8: **Confirmation Preparation #2** (w/sponsor)
- ☐ February 4 or 5: SMALL GROUP session
- * February 18: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ February/March: Parish Mission (date/time TBD)
- ☐ March 3 or 4: SMALL GROUP session
- * March 10: Small Group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ March 10 or 11: **Confirmation Preparation #3** (w/sponsor)
- ☐ Wednesday, March 13: **Teen Reconciliation 7:00 pm**
- * April 7: Small group Teen Mass 6:30 pm
- ☐ April 14 or 15: SMALL GROUP session

Confirmation Retreat Options

8th graders are expected to register for one retreat:
Saturdays 11:30 am - 6:00 pm and includes Mass
Sundays 1:00 - 7:30 pm and includes Mass
Sat., October 14; **Sun.**, November 12,
Sat., December 16 or **Sun.**, February 18

Stewardship Opportunities

Teens are expected to participate in a minimum of **6 stewardship projects** (totaling 20 hours) each year. Teens are encouraged to serve their families, parish and community as well as these optional Faith Formation/Parish events.

- ☐ Wednesday, October 25: College Care Packages 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- ☐ Saturday, November 18: Rake & Run 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

More opportunities will be planned and promoted throughout the year as well! STAY TUNED for opportunities as they occur.

Tentative schedule for 2023-2024 - all dates subject to change
Please use Codes QUE on the paper registration form



High School QUEST Ministry

2023-2024

RELATIONSHIP DISCIPLESHIP MISSION

St. Jude Youth Ministry inspires and empowers high school teens to develop and deepen a personal relationship with Jesus through participating in small groups, engaging Teen Masses and meaningful service events. Teens and families will be equipped to grow in RELATIONSHIP (with each other and God through small group gatherings), DISCIPLESHIP (through Teen Masses) and MISSION (with a variety of meaningful stewardship events throughout the year).

6:30 pm Weekly Teen Mass

Friends and families are encouraged to participate in an engaging, youth-focused Mass. High School teens will be trained for leadership in the following roles: Greeter, Announcer, Reader, Eucharistic Minister or Musician.

High School teens are invited to gather for fellowship from 7:30 - 9:00 pm after Mass once a month!

High School Teen Leaders for JHYM

High school teens are needed as role models for small groups of junior high teens. Leaders will be trained and supported. This is a fun and valuable way to earn school service hours while putting your faith into action. Sign up for Sundays (4:40 - 6:15 pm) or Mondays (6:25 - 8:00 pm) for these dates:

October 1 or 2 and October 22 or 23
November 5 or 6
December 3 or 4
February 4 or 5
March 3 or 4
April 14 or 15

Stewardship Opportunities

Put your faith into action, learn new skills and complete service hours necessary for school graduation and college scholarships!

- Wednesday, October 25: College Care Packages 6:30 - 8:00 pm
- Saturday, November 18: Rake & Run 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Sunday, January 8: Making Valentines for the Elderly 7:30 - 8:00 pm
- Pizza Taster; day and time TBD

Plus service at Feed My Starving Children, Hands of Hope in Joliet, the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels in Chicago and more!

Look for summer mission trips to Catholic Heart Work Camp, Nazareth Farm and others!

QUEST Gatherings

All high school teens are invited to enjoy fellowship, faith growth and accountability in a small group that meets twice a month (either on Sunday or Wednesday nights). Small groups meet in homes, coffee shops and Church. Participants grow in discipleship and leadership.

Sundays

7:30 pm after Teen Mass

September 10
October 15
November 12
December 17
January 7
February 18
March 10
April 14

“Welcome to QUEST” Campfire Socials

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm
September 6, 13, 20 27

Wednesdays

7:00 pm

October 4, 11, 18, 25
November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
December 6, 13, 20
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
February 7, 14, 21, 28
March 6, 13, 20, 27
April 3, 10, 17, 24
May 1

QUEST Retreats

Time spent away, together with God and each other, teens uncover a deeper and renewed connection to Christ.

- ◇Discovery Retreat: November, 2023
- ◇Winter Extreme Retreat: February, 2024
- ◇Holy Thursday Retreat: March 28, 2024
- ◇Help lead JHYM Confirmation retreats

Your St. Jude Faith Formation Team!

As partners in your child's faith formation, we want you to know who we are. This team brings over 50 years of faith formation experience to this parish. We have advanced degrees in ministry and experience in teaching both families as well as catechetical leaders from around the country. We combine education with experience and a love of Christ with a passion for ministry. We are like you: working jobs (sometimes more than one), having fun on the weekends, raising children and enjoying our families while growing in relationship with Christ. Thank you for accompanying us on our own faith journeys. We feel privileged to work with our St. Jude family!

Faith Formation Office Main Phone Number 815-463-4260

Faith Formation Absentee Phone Number 815-463-4261

<p>Berni Kacor Administrative Coordinator bkacor@stjudes.org 815-463-4262</p>	<p>Jackie Vanisko Catechetical Support Associate Grades 7 - 12 jvanisko@stjudes.org 815-463-4260</p>
<p>Matthew Krumdrick Director of Junior & High School Youth Ministries (7th & 8th Grade/Confirmation Prep/QUEST) matthewk@stjudes.org 815-463-4213 or 630-730-1368</p>	<p>Jen Lebhardt Coordinator of Youth Discipleship (7th & 8th Grade/Confirmation Prep) jlebhardt@stjudes.org 815-463-4266</p>
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