



LIFE WITH CHRIST IS A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE!-POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

# RELIGIOUS ED

First Day of RE  
Classes:  
September  
19th!



## Summer with the Saints: Venerable Augustus Tolton

"As I look back on my life, I realize that every time I thought I was being rejected from something good, I was actually being redirected to something better."

Inspiring words about following God's Will from a man who was born into slavery and became the first Catholic priest of African descent in the United States of America. Fr. Tolton's parents were both slaves and, during the Civil War, his father went off to fight with the Union Army. After the death of her husband, his mother escaped the South with Augustus and settled in Quincy, Illinois. The family was befriended by Fr. Peter

McGirr, who was instrumental in having young Augustus enroll at St. Peter School in Quincy. It was from the sisters who taught him that Augustus learned more about the Catholic faith and discerned his vocation to the priesthood.

After being denied admission to a seminary in the United States because of the color of his skin, Fr. Tolton attended the seminary in Rome and committed to becoming a priest in Africa. The night before he was ordained, one of the cardinals approached him and told Fr. Tolton that instead of going to Africa, he was to return to the United States and become a missionary here. After beginning his priesthood in Quincy, Fr. Tolton came to Chicago to assist with the founding and opening of St. Monica Church on 36th and Dearborn. It was here that this good, holy priest helped people of all backgrounds live their Catholic faith and draw closer to God.

Fr. Tolton passed away here in Chicago when he was only 44 years old. His cause for canonization is ongoing.

## RE Registration

Registration is open for the 2021-2022 Religious Education Program for students in 1st-8th grades. Scan the QR Code to complete the registration form.



**Looking for a way to get involved? We are looking for volunteers to serve as catechists in the RE Program as well as leaders for Children's Liturgy of the Word. Contact Kathleen Driscoll, [kadriscoll@archchicago.org](mailto:kadriscoll@archchicago.org), if you would like to volunteer.**

***All volunteers must fulfill the volunteer requirements of the Archdiocese of Chicago.***

## September RE Calendar

September 19th: First Class (10am-11:30am)

September 26th: Class (10am-11:30am)