



Aug 04, 2017

Dear Families in Christ,

As the summer comes to a close and our thoughts turn to the promise of the coming school year, it is time also to begin planning for the religious education year. Let us pray that the year ahead will be a blessed one for our children as they continue to grow in their relationships with Jesus. Let us also as parents take this opportunity to turn our own hearts to God a little more fully so that we can be good examples to our children.

Allow me to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Mass is a wonderful mystery that can be revealed to attentive hearts. Beyond what we see and hear on the surface, at Mass our Creator is coming to us in the Word and in the Eucharist! With patience and time, both children and parents can come to appreciate the Mass more deeply.

In an effort to provide an opportunity for the children to celebrate and participate more fully in the Mass, we will be celebrating Youth Masses on the third Sunday of the month at 9am from October to April (no Youth mass in March). We will continue to invite all children and young people, levels K through 12, to participate in these Masses. Different levels will participate in the different Mass ministries like greeting, bringing up the gifts, creating the Prayers of the Faithful and proclaiming the readings. If your child would be interested in joining the children's choir that will sing at these Masses please contact Anni Sedlack at 610-682-0820 or Nathan Skoronski at 610-682-1775.

**Elementary classes will not meet on the Sundays that these Masses occur, but attendance will be taken by the teachers at the Masses.** The Youth Masses are meant to be part of the children's religious education experience, as the Mass is the centerpiece of our spiritual lives as Catholic Christians. **Please note that both Elementary and Junior high classes will begin on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.** Elementary grades K thru 5<sup>th</sup> meets 10:30 to 11:45. Junior High, grades 6 thru 8<sup>th</sup>, will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month from 6-8pm.

The first day for Sr. High Ministry, 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>, which meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month from 6:30 – 8:00pm, will be Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Please consult the enclosed Religious Education calendar and class session schedule for class dates and times as well as the dates for the Youth Masses.

See reverse >>>

Enclosed you will also find the most current rosters and the Parent Religious Education Handbook. Please read all of the information included in this packet. If you have not already done so, please send in your child's religious ed. registration form and payment. Please return the handbook acknowledgement form on the first day of classes.

The opening parent meetings for this year are:

**Home-based Parent Orientation Meeting:** Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Religious Education Center. We will plan the year's gatherings and distribute textbooks and other materials.

**Elementary Parent Orientation Meetings:** Sunday, September 10, room 117 of the REC, 10:45 – 11:10 for parents of children with last names beginning in A-M, and 11:15 – 11:40 for parents of children with last names beginning in N-Z. **\*Parents, please report to your child's classroom at the beginning of the first class. Catechists will be speaking to the parents for a few minutes at the beginning of class.\***

**Levels 6 and 7 Parent Orientation Meeting:** Sunday, September 10, 6:15pm – 7:15pm in room 117 of the REC.

**Confirmation Meeting for all Level 8 parents:** Sunday, September 24, 6:15pm – 7:30pm in room 117 of the REC.

Adult education will continue to be offered in room 117 of the REC during elementary classes this year. Please join us for adult conversation on a variety of faith and justice topics.

If your Child is not yet registered you can download the registration form off of the Parish website. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. The catechists and I look forward to a wonderful year with your children!

Sincerely,

*Ann Pergosky*  
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St. Mary's Religious Education Center  
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