

August 24, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the Sacred Heart Faith Formation Program. We begin on Sunday, September 17th. Catechists will be commissioned at the 9:30 Mass, followed by a parent meeting, child activities and Family Rosary on the lawn. The first regular class is September 24th. Classes will meet in the Parish Hall following the 9:30 Mass. We hope you will join us for worship and come directly downstairs for a few minutes of fellowship before class begins at 10:40.

You will note there are a few changes to our calendar and program. The diocese has launched an initiative called: "Restore, Renew & Proclaim the Hope that is Christ". The primary goal is to switch to a lifelong faith formation model. One of the most visible changes will be the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. This year is designated to pray and prepare before ANY changes are implemented.

The goal of religious education is to form disciples of all ages. This year, our program offers three choices: the Traditional, Hybrid or Homeschool models. Please review the attached form for more information. We've added many opportunities for family catechesis and encourage you to participate fully. These are not "weeks off" from classes, they are a new approach to catechesis and to be considered an integral part of the program (not apart from it.) The classroom provides information, the activities and service opportunities offer formation, both are necessary for discipleship.

We will continue to use the "Faith and Life" series this year. Catechists were very positive about the change; however, one suggestion was to add more activities and supplemental materials. To replace the Gospel Weeklies, which offered more family involvement, we are able to offer a subscription to "MagnifiKid" at a discounted price of \$15 (normally \$34). MagnifiKid is a weekly booklet designed for ages 6-12 that includes the readings and prayers for that week's Mass along with daily prayers and suggestions on how to live the week with the Lord. It includes activities like word searches, crossword puzzles, mazes and coloring pages.

We have wonderfully committed individuals who will be working with your children. This year, we are asking each family to volunteer at least once. There is a space on the registration form to indicate how you will help. Catechists, Co-Teachers, substitutes and aides are always needed, but we also welcome volunteers with other gifts like music, hospitality, service projects, prayer and/or activity help.

I would like to provide space for parents and younger siblings to gather and socialize during class time. If this is something that interests you, please let me know ASAP as I prepare the classroom layout and space plan. We are also considering adult programs during classes (bible study, book group or other adult faith formation). While in the preliminary stages, it would be helpful to gauge interest.

If your child was not baptized at Sacred Heart or Holy Redeemer please provide a copy of their baptismal record. Any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the office.

God Bless!

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