

June 18, 2009

Dear Parent,

I know...Religious Ed just ended in April. However, like most other educational organizations there is much to do between now and the start of a "new" RE session. The most important being the recruiting of volunteer catechists (teachers) and the availability of in-service opportunities for catechists. These in-services or training sessions are necessary to make your child's faith formation experience the best it can be. Then there is the ordering of religion books and the different resource materials that are needed at the various grade levels. I think you get the picture. Therefore, the enclosed registration materials needed to be sent out at this time.

As always, I am looking to not only improve your child's faith formation experience but also yours, as the parent. To meet that end there will be some new additions to the RE Program. First of all, there will be a seasonal newsletter developed especially for parents. Not only will there be information about upcoming RE programming but also articles for you - the adult Catholic. There will a column especially for Q's and A's so start sending in your "burning" questions about the faith to me and/or Fr. Al.

Again, there will be three special evenings interspersed throughout the year. These dates will be October 7<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mark your calendars NOW as these special evenings are intended not only for the children but also *parents* (families - younger children and grandparents?) to attend. The primary grade levels for these evenings are grades 1-5 although other grades may be involved at different times and in different ways. This past session, the seventh graders put together 7 different "stations" to teach us about the Seven Sacraments. Those parents in attendance were very impressed with the presentations. The evening ended with each family making a 7 Sacraments Game to take home. Not only did we learn something about our faith...we all had fun doing so!

Last year, the PaC Program was started as a way to get the children and their parents involved in learning more about the faith through earning PaC bucks (points). The PaC bucks were accumulated and used to buy religious related items/articles twice during the RE session. PaC stands for Prayers and Concepts. In other words, at each grade level there are certain prayers and faith concepts that are expected to be learned and when a child showed proficiency in a certain area or was able to repeat a prayer he or she earned a certain amount of points depending on the difficulty of the faith concept and/or prayer. Information on this program will be explained further and printed material made available to you at the first session on Wednesday evening September 9<sup>th</sup>. Parents should attend this session that will begin at 6:00 PM in the church.

The service opportunities that the children have been involved in have been well received. This coming RE session there will be more opportunities for the children to be of service to the parish and community. These projects will be explained at the first session in September. I have a request, if you and your family buy the large "buckets" of ice cream - the

ones that are over a gallon - please wash out and save for the RE Program. We will be using them for one of our service projects next session. Thank you!! We will also continue the "Penny Wars" project and individual groups will do something on grade levels such as, visiting one of the local nursing care facilities.

Lastly, some grades will be going on "faith journeys." One of the places we will be visiting is the Rudolph Grotto and Shrine. Another will be Sts. Peter and Paul Church - the oldest church in the area - founded in 1857!! FYI...Wisconsin became a state in 1848.

Leslie Joosten will continue as the "lead catechist" here at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish. One facet of Leslie's position is to make sure that everything is running smoothly when I am not able to be here. She is responsible for the all aspects of the program in my absence. If you have any questions or concerns during my absences, Leslie is the person to turn to. She did a wonderful job last session! Of course, as always, you can still contact me at 423-1251 or [dreduff@yahoo.com](mailto:dreduff@yahoo.com) with any question or concern you may have.

I don't know about you but I am very excited about the upcoming RE session!! I can't wait to see what the upcoming faith formation session brings to your child and to you, the parent. Please know that you and your family are in my prayers. I ask you to keep me in your prayers, too. God bless you and your family as you walk in faith with one another!

Nancy Metz - DRE

Cc: Fr. Al Wierzba