

# Religious Education begins September 13, 14 & 15



**Registration September 12, 13 in the Parish Hall after all Masses.  
For those Parents who have not Registered your children.**

Public school is back in session! Parents and kids are happy and excited about be-back in school. My prayers this month have been for students returning to school well as the "new beginnings:" those starting school for the first time, those entering middle school, those starting high school, too. I've been praying for our religious education program, our parents, children and religious educators, too. They have such an important task as they teach as Jesus did shaping children's lives and minds in the ways of Catholic Faith. May the grace of the Holy Spirit sustain and strengthen them!



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We will have an **Opening Year Family Kick-off** in the Parish Hall on your child's first class. We invite all parents/guardians and children to meet together to pray, meet the Catechists, have an orientation and go to the classrooms. Parents/guardians please make arrangements to stay for the entire class time.

## **Religious Education Class times:**

Sunday 5:30p.m. - 6:45p.m. Grades 9-10

Monday 5:30p.m. - 6:45p.m. Grades 5 - 8

Tuesday 5:30p.m. - 6:45p.m. Grades K- 4

The children qualified to receive First Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation must be enrolled in the religious education classes.

**Enrolling your child in Religious Education** is also agreeing that you are going to help us in developing your child's faith life by participating in parish life. We expect that your child will not miss more than 3 Religious Education classes and that your family will participate in our weekly holy sacrifice of the Mass, and attend various parish events through-out the year to enrich your family's religious development.

Parents/Guardians are invited to attend the **Parent/Guardian Enrichment Classes** offered the same time as the children are having classes. We will meet every other week. The sessions will include "Practical Issues for Parenting" with guest speakers, and we will discuss the Lord's teachings from Sunday's Mass and the **Question of the Week**, and how to apply it to our lives.

## **Family Mass Begins October 4**

We encourage all our families to go to the 10:00am Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, as a sign of unity. We will have a reception afterwards in the Parish Hall with coffee, punch and doughnuts.

## **Sunday, September 20, 10:00am Mass with the Commissioning of Catechists**

This year, Catechetical Sunday is on September 20. Our Catechists and Assistants, who serve in our Religious Education Program, will be blessed at the 10:00am Mass. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the Faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate ourselves to this mission as St. Francis of Assisi's Community of Faith.

## **Sunday, October 18, 1:30 – 5:00pm, Parish Picnic at Englewood Beach**

Enjoy a wonderful day at the beach with your Parish family. Call the Office or sign up on the poster in the Parish Hall, and let us know that your family is going. This will help us get a number count for the hamburgers and hot dogs, we need to supply and cook. Also, please bring a covered dish for all to enjoy. Any question, call the Office, 697-4899.

## **Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10:00am Mass, Every Week except when Family Mass is first Sunday of each month**

We welcome our children ages 4 years through 10 years old. At the beginning of Mass, Father invites children to the front of the Altar, talks to them and blesses them. Then the catechists and children process to the cryroom. This program is designed with the following objectives in mind:

1. Foster appreciation for the Word of God in young children's level.
2. Conduct the Children's Liturgy of the Word in a reverent manner, consistent with the Mass, so as to transition the children into the "Big Church" setting. It is not babysitting or nursery school.
3. To allow parents the opportunity to engage in a deeper participation in the Mass without the distractions small children may sometimes bring.

Thank you and God Bless you and the family,  
Jim Brantner, Director of Religious Education