

Share the Spirit

Issue I

2009—2010

September

Welcome Back

We are looking forward to another great year of learning about and sharing our faith and its traditions. You should have received a copy of the calendar with your child's assignment. Please note that there are classes on the circled days. Please check the back of the calendar for dates of important meetings. If you need another copy, please call the office.

To Keep The Program Running Smoothly ...

- + Classes begin at 3:45 and end at 5:00 PM. This provides the mandatory 35 class hours required by the Archdiocese.
- + Children are to enter through the main doors of the school and proceed to the Parish Hall. The children will meet their catechist and the entire class will proceed to the classroom.
- + Children will also be dismissed through the main doors.
- + The Cone Zone near the main door is for the children's safety. Please DO NOT drive within the cones. The children will wait near the sidewalk until they see their family member.
- + Please call the office to report an absence.
- + Snacks will not be provided as a part of class. If your child needs a quick pick me up, please have them enjoy it at home, or have it small enough to be completed before class begins. Several of the students in the Religious Education Program and Holy Spirit School have severe allergies to peanuts and other items. To protect them, please follow this guideline.
- + Please remind your child not to touch anything in the classrooms. The Holy Spirit School allows us to use their space. Last year several rooms reported items missing, disturbed, and even damaged. Please assist us in reminding your child to stay out of the desks and not to touch the computers or projects.

We are here to assist you in bringing your child up in the Catholic Faith. Thank you for what you can do to assist in the smooth running of the Religious Education Program. We look forward to a great year. God bless you.

Holy Spirit Church Mass Schedule

Sunday obligations to Mass attendance can be met at the:

5:30 PM Saturday Evening
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM
And the 12:00 Noon Masses on Sunday.

Children and Family Liturgies are celebrated throughout the year at the 9:00 AM Mass.

We will make the schedule available as soon as we receive it.

Perhaps you can make them part of your family celebration of Mass.

In Honor of St. Francis
You and your pets are invited to

**A Blessing of Animals
At 11:00 on October 3rd**

on the front steps of the Church.

RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is a process where adults come together to learn and grow in the Catholic Faith. This process is for those who have not been Baptized, for those who were baptized into another Christian denomination and would like to become Catholic, or those who have not completed their Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation).

If you would like more information please call Cathy Drake at 964-7533. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who may be interested. A new group has begun the process. It is not too late for you. Please call soon, we welcome you to become a fully initiated Catholic.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Children who are registered in Religious Education Programs in the Archdiocese of Newark are required to attend a minimum of thirty five hours of religious education during the year.

Absenteeism Policy

We realize that children get sick and emergencies occur. If, because of either of these, your child will not be attending a class, we ask you to notify the Religious Education Office. You will be given the material to be covered for that class and are required to make up the work at home with your child. However this is still considered an absence.

If your child misses more than five classes in any one year they will need to repeat the entire grade level before advancing to the next grade the following year. Missing more than five classes may also delay the reception of sacraments.

Tardiness – Early Dismissal Policy

Because of our limited instructional hours, it is essential that each child be present and prepared for class on time and remains until the scheduled dismissal. No child will be dismissed without prior written notice from a parent/guardian and must include the name of the person to whom the child is to be released. Children arriving for class and simply announcing that they must leave early will not be dismissed.

Three late arrivals or early dismissals will be counted as one absence and the above policy will be followed.

Sacramental Preparation Policy

At the appropriate grade levels, the Religious Education Program will provide materials to assist parents in preparing children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Upon completion of the materials, each child will be evaluated as to their readiness for the reception of the particular sacrament. The reception of any sacrament is not automatic, and will depend on the student's understanding of the material in an age appropriate manner, and, in the case of Confirmation, their overall attitude toward Church, faith and its' place in their lives.

Behavior Policy

It is our obligation to provide Religious Education for all students enrolled in our program and no student will be denied this opportunity. It is our responsibility to all students to provide them with an atmosphere that will allow learning to occur and no one will be allowed to prevent others from achieving this. Taking all this into consideration, the following behavior policy has been established should unacceptable behavior occur:

The catechist will try to remedy the misbehavior in the classroom. If a change in the behavior does not occur...

The catechist will ask the student to leave the room and report to the Office, where the problem will be discussed. Depending on the situation a child may return to the class after a period of time, or remain in the office until the end of class. All missed work is to be completed at home and the student will be allowed to return to class the next week.

If the catechist needs to ask a student to report to the office a second time, a call will be made to their parent to inform them of the situation. Again, missed work is to be completed at home.

A third occurrence will necessitate a call to the parent to come to the Office and pick-up their child. The missed work is to be completed and the student may be allowed to return to class the next week only after an interview with parent and child has been held.

If a fourth problem occurs, the student will be permanently removed from that class and arrangements will be made with the Religious Education Office for further study of the grade level material.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping to make this year of Religious Education a faith-filled learning experience.