

August 6, 2009

Dear Religious Education Families,

Summer blessings to you! I hope and pray that this has been a rest-ful and re-creative time for all of you. It has been an exciting few months here at Our Lady of Peace: we bid farewell to Fr. Tom Brooks in July and prepare to welcome Fr. Ted Marconi when he arrives on August 12th. I had the opportunity to meet with him briefly at the national small communities conference held at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Harborcreek in late July, and I can assure you he is greatly anticipating his time here!

With August, of course, come thoughts of the new school year and the new Religious Education year. (Surely, I can't be the only one who thinks the new year really begins in September?)

Elementary Religious Education

- Classes will begin on Sunday, September 13, 2009. Classes are held in the parish school from 10:00 to 11:45 am.
- Parents are asked to bring their children directly to the classroom. Class lists with room assignments will be posted in the school lobby the first Sunday morning and will remain for a few weeks afterward.
- Dismissal will take place from the classroom on a staggered schedule. The grade levels will be dismissed over the PA system accordingly:

Pre-K & K	11:35	4th	11:42
1st & RCIA	11:37	2nd	11:43
6th	11:39	3rd	11:44
5th	11:41		

- Parents are to wait in the hallway for their child. Students may not be dismissed without a parent or high school age sibling's presence. Students must wait until their class is dismissed to leave their classroom. Dismissal prior to regular dismissal time requires a written note from parent.
- An INFORMATION SESSION FOR ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN THE ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, September 27th @ 10:45 am in the cafeteria. The 2009-2010 OLP Religious Education Family Handbook, which will include the calendar for the year, will be distributed. After the meeting, look for this information on the parish website, as well, <http://www.olp.org>.

Junior High Information

- 7th & 8th grade Jr High will begin on Sunday, September 20th, with a student/parent/catechist Informational Session from 6:00—7:00 pm in the school cafeteria. The 7th & 8th graders will meet afterward with their catechists in their individual breakout sessions until 8:30 pm. Class assignments will be posted in the school lobby.

Secondary Information

- 9th grade students/parents/catechists will meet in the cafeteria Sunday, September 20th from 7:00 –7:30 for a brief Informational Session. Students will then gather with their catechists in their rooms for their first session of the year from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

10th Grade—Confirmation Preparation

Year One

- The Our Lady of Peace Confirmation process begins in 10th grade for our Religious Education youth. A vitally important orientation session, Sunday, September 20th, from 7:30-8:30 pm in the school cafeteria, will explore the process and the requirements for all 10th grade Religious Education Youth and at least one parent. If your 10th grader desires Confirmation in 11th grade, attendance in 10th grade is necessary.

Registration Information:

- Enclosed with this letter are registration forms for both the elementary and secondary program. Both the front and back of the form needs to be completed. For your convenience there are several ways to register your child(ren) for religious education. Completed registration forms will be accepted after all the Masses the weekend of Saturday, August 22rd and Sunday, August 23rd in the parish school gym. Completed registrations with payment enclosed may be mailed to the Religious Education office or dropped off at the church or Religious Education office.
- The enrollment in the religious education program is over 600 children. For this reason, we ask that you register early. This allows the office the time to prepare the class lists for the catechists. To encourage early registration, a five dollar discount is offered, thus: for registrations received by Sunday, August 30th, early registration fees are as follows

\$70.00 - one child in program

\$85.00 - two children in program

\$95.00 - three or more children in program

[Please note that “in program” refers to total number of children in Elementary & Secondary.

These fees do not include 11th grade confirmation preparation.]

- Registration received after Sunday, August 30th will be

\$75.00 - one child in program

\$90.00 - two children in program

\$100.00 - three or more children in program

Registration Information (continued)

- Sacramental Preparation Fee There is a sacramental preparation fee for 2nd & 3rd grades. These grade levels will be using two books to help them to prepare to celebrate the sacraments. A fee of \$15.00 is being charged to cover the cost of these books.
- Photo Release Form Enclosed in this packet is a photo release form for our parish newsletter and parish bulletin and website. Please fill this out and return it with your registration if you so desire..

Volunteer Needs

As always, I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider becoming involved in the Religious Education program at Our Lady of Peace Church. Many volunteers are needed in many different capacities because the size of our program. It is the largest Religious Education program in the Erie Diocese. At this writing we are in need of catechists at every grade level. We are especially in need of catechists at the elementary grade levels this year. Because of the different seasons of life, some veteran catechists are not able to be with us, so we have openings with the younger children, as well as the middle schoolers.

Our youth need role models in the Catholic faith, now more than ever. Most importantly—as parents, we are called to be our children's first and foremost teachers of the faith. How are you being called to fulfill this role? Enclosed with this letter is a volunteer sheet. Please, take the time to prayerfully consider how this ministry could fit into your life. You may return it to me, or call me @ 838.9983 or e-mail me at laura.drapcho@olp.org for more information or just to talk. Your time and talents and unique gifts are valuable!

Please know that my door (located at the top of the second floor of the parish school) is open to you! Should you ever have a question or concern, I'll be happy to listen to you. My contact information is above. Most folks know that I am an obsessive e-mail checker!

Enjoy the remaining days of summer with your family.

Peace be with you all,

Laura Drapcho

Administrator of Religious Education

