

CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
110 Roosevelt Avenue, Berkeley Heights, NJ, 07922
lgervasio@lfbhnj.org ~ 908-464-7444

August 2009

Religious Education Classes

In a separate email you will receive class assignments. I ask that you do not reply to that email address because it is used for outgoing emails only, it does not receive in coming emails. You can respond to me at lgervasio@lfbhnj.org.

As September approaches, we reflect on how thankful we are for the blessings we have received. We are so grateful for the many volunteers in our Religious Education Program. Because of their generous gift of time, they have given us the opportunity to offer a variety of class times so that we might better meet the needs of our parish families.

This year, Sunday Religious Education classes will begin on **September 20** for those registered in grades 1 through 8. Monday Religious Education classes for those in Kindergarten through grades 8 will begin on **September 21**. Wednesday Religious Education classes will begin on **September 23, 2009**. Once classes begin, there will be no reassignments made.

Together, with your child's catechist, you are the messenger of God's love and care. Your child's Catechist is a volunteer and, for the most part, a parent, like yourself. We hope you will introduce yourself to these Catechists and support them by having your child arrive on time for class and reminding your child that respectful behavior is expected. Reminder about the 'With My Family' page... The students take the pages home to do and must return them to their Religious Ed teacher the following week.

The more information you can share about your child's learning style, the more successful a year it will be for both your child and the Catechist. All information will remain confidential. Parents are always welcome to sit in and observe a class.

Included in this e-mail are:

1. Religious Education Newsletter
2. Attendance Policy
3. Calendar for the 2009/2010 school year

Sacrament Preparation

The Archdiocese of Newark requires children preparing for sacraments to attend Religious Education classes for a minimum of two years prior to the reception of a sacrament.

Preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be shared by each child's parent or guardian and the 2nd Grade Religious Education teachers. There will be a one-time \$150.00 Sacrament fee to cover the extra expenses that occur during this Sacrament year. This fee will cover the cost of the additional preparation books, special certificates and booklets, and the Blessing Cup Retreat.

More information will be sent to the parents regarding specific dates that have been scheduled for special activities involving both the children and their parents or guardians.

During 7th grade, the students will prepare to take the pre-Confirmation test that is required in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. You will receive additional information as the year progresses. Preparation classes for the sacrament of Confirmation will begin in December for our 8th grade students. Classes will be held once a month from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Further information will be available to parents in November. A one-time \$150.00 Sacrament fee will be charged for the Confirmation Program to cover expenses.

Religious Education Program Policies

Faithful weekly worship is essential if the educational effort is to fulfill its mission of bringing your child closer to God. The success of our Religious Education Program depends on the support, cooperation and commitment of the parents, catechists, students and staff. As parents, our commitment is to positively reinforce our faith by practice and example, and to create a home atmosphere conducive for our children to practice and grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith. Sending one's child to Religion class is next to useless if parents, the main faith educators, are not living what the children are taught, **making weekly Mass a priority.**

Attendance: Registered students are expected to **arrive on time** and attend all scheduled Religious Education classes. An attendance policy is enclosed for your review.

Early Arrival: Those children who come directly from school on Monday or arrive early -
If classroom is downstairs – go to the Cafeteria until their teacher arrives and escorts them to the classroom.
If classroom is upstairs – children are to wait in hallway until the teacher arrives.

Children are **not permitted to enter the classroom until a teacher has arrived.** Classes on Monday will begin promptly at 3:30 PM.

Discipline: Students are expected to be responsible for their conduct, respect their teachers and fellow students, and cooperate in the classroom.

Normal discipline problems will be handled in the classroom by the Catechist. For major problems including disruptive behavior, disrespect, or vandalism, the student will be sent to the Religious Education office and parents will be notified.

The Monday afternoon classes are very popular but we need the cooperation of the parents. Children arrive after a long day of school so we ask that you speak with them about cooperative behavior so their learning sessions can be a positive experience for everyone.

Cell Phones: Cell phones are to be turned off when children enter the building and are not allowed on during class time. If a child has his/her phone turned on, we will request that the phone remain on the teacher's desk until class is dismissed.

Snacks: Snacks should be limited during class time. (i.e. for religious celebrations or other special occasions the teacher or class feel relates to what is being taught in class, Christmas or Easter, a special reward for good behavior and/or the mastery of a religious concept).

Textbooks: Textbooks are distributed on the first day of class. Lost or damaged books must be replaced at a cost of \$25.00.

Standardized Assessment: The Archdiocese of Newark requires that we administer a standardized assessment, the **NCEA-ACRE**, at certain grade levels. The assessment will be administered at the beginning of February to our 5th graders. Let us know if your child has any test-taking difficulties, and we will offer alternative approaches.

.....THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.....