

April 2017

Dear Parents,

We are about to begin the registration process for the 2017-2018 Religious Education year. In addition to praying in your home (i.e. grace before meals, and bedtime prayers), we believe that worship with the parish is the most formative way to pass on the Roman Catholic faith and traditions. Gathering together to hear the Word of God and celebrate the Eucharist is central to our identity as Catholics. Jesus is truly present in the Word made flesh and in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Our priority is focused on participation in the Mass through the celebration of Children's Liturgy Of the Word, with classroom time included.

**SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM for GRADES K – 5** (Twice a month)

Class times will be offered from 8:15 – 10:30. During these sessions, students will attend class, then join their parents in the Church for the 9:30am family Mass. These sessions will also include 2 scheduled Intergenerational Gatherings with parents and students during the year.

**WEEKDAY PROGRAM GRADES K – 5** (Twice a month)

The weekday sessions will be offered on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 4:15 – 5:30pm. **This year, we will also be offering a Saturday morning session from 9:00 – 10:15am.** These sessions will also include 2 scheduled Intergenerational Gatherings with parents and students. Weekday students are expected to attend Mass, preferably the 9:30 family Mass.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

Incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will prepare for and celebrate First Penance in the fall, and First Communion in the spring. These students most definitely should be at Mass weekly.

**HOME SCHOOL PROGRAM** (Once a month)

Students in grades K, 1, 3, 4 and 5 may participate in the Home Program as long as they attend the group sessions as scheduled, and join us at Mass, preferably the 9:30 family Mass.

**MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS (Grades 6 – Year II)**

Grades 6 through Year II classes for 2017-2018 will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6 – 8pm (includes participation in the 7pm Mass), and Sunday afternoons from 4:30 – 6:00pm with participation in the 6pm Mass, the same as this past year.

Year I and Year II will also have the opportunity to take one of the courses during the summer, for 6 consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning June 28<sup>th</sup>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS WILL BE COMING IN A LATER EMAIL—please watch for it!

## REGISTRATION and TUITION

Again this year, in addition to the **mail-in registration** (please see attached form), we will be holding in-person registrations in the Parish Center during the last two (2) weeks of classes (the weeks of April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>) AND after all the Masses on the following dates:

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Saturday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup> | before and after the 4pm Mass |
| Sunday, June 4 <sup>th</sup>   | 8:00am - 1:00pm               |

You are also welcome to stop by the Parish Office during our regular office hours (Mon – Thurs, 9am to 4pm—closed for lunch 12-1).

While the cost of textbooks has increased, the tuition rate for 2017-2018 will remain the same as this past year. Please include payment for the tuition when registering. Always keep in mind that we are committed to educating your child, and should tuition be a financial burden, we ask you to contact the Director of Religious Education at 898-4818 so alternate arrangements can be made. In order to secure your child's spot in class, **tuition is expected to be included with the registration form.** Also, please be mindful that class placement is on a first-come, first-served basis, and is based on the availability of volunteers; late registration will jeopardize students' class availability and preference.

The Parish Religious Education Program is fully dependent upon Parish volunteers; therefore, we encourage you to pray about volunteering in the program. We commit to providing the volunteers with continuing assistance and development in their ministry to the children of St. Matthew's. Should you discern to say "Yes" to this ministry, please contact the Religious Education office at 898-4818. Tuition rate incentives are offered to those who volunteer.

As we seek to fulfill the mission of the Church together, be assured of our prayer that God may continue to hold each one of you in His embrace and fill you with abundant blessings!

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Brian, Peg Donahue-Turner, Sandy Gibbons, MaryJude Donabedian, Deacon Geoff, and Deacon Bernie*