

# St. George Religious Education

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Dear Religious Education Families,

Greetings! We hope that you and your family had a positive experience in our faith formation program this past year. It is already time to begin our preparation for the 2017-2018 Religious Education year. Our classes will again be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. Our first session will begin with prayer in Church (probably the Gym at that time due to upcoming renovations) and an Ice Cream Social in the Cahill Center on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Students in each grade will continue to learn basic prayers, to encounter Christ in the stories of the Sunday gospels, and to learn many of the foundational premises of our Catholic faith. We will again be using the Pflaum *Gospel Weeklies* (which has some great new features) as our main catechetical resource; this series has online support for parents and catechists alike in addition to the materials presented each week. We again ask you to partner with us by working with your child on the *Family Life* curriculum from RCL Benziger; this series fulfills an Archdiocesan requirement to address issues important to ongoing growth in the family and the safe care of our children.

Our faith formation program is a spiral curriculum where each year builds upon what was presented before. Children are expected to attend all grade levels, and it is hoped that you and they will become active parishioners and continue to grow in faith even after participating in our Religious Education program. We *encourage* all of our parents to take part in the VIRTUS/ Protecting God's Children program; ALL volunteers in our program (and any program in the Church that deals with children and teens) are required to be VIRTUS trained. Training is offered at St. George and other area parishes; certainly, there will be times and places that will be convenient for you to attend.

**Enrollment BEFORE AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> is important! It saves you money, and it allows us to plan for materials and catechists, etc. Registrations that occur after that time give us a false sense of our needs and may result in us being short of volunteers to effectively carry out our portion of your child's faith formation. PLEASE help us by heeding this deadline. Thank you!**

- If you are a returning family with no new students, you just need to complete both sides of the FAMILY Registration form and make payment before August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please either submit payment with your registration or enroll at Give Central. (See enclosed rate sheet.)
- If you are a returning family with a new student (usually a 1<sup>st</sup> Grade student) please complete the front and back of the Family form and also complete the front and back of the NEW STUDENT PERMANENT RECORD form for the child who is new to our program. Baptismal record is required for any NEW student not baptized here at St. George. Again, payment (or enrollment through Give Central) is due by August 1<sup>st</sup>. (See enclosed rate sheet.)
- For NEW families, you must complete the NEW STUDENT PERMANENT RECORD form for EACH of your children enrolling in the program this year. Additionally, we require baptismal records for each new student not baptized here at St. George. Again, payment (or enrollment through Give Central) is due by August 1<sup>st</sup>. (See enclosed rate sheet.)

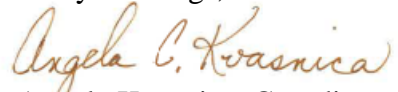
*"As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." -- Joshua 24:15*

- Please complete both sides of all registration forms. Thank you.
- As always, **THIS PROGRAM RELIES HEAVILY ON VOLUNTEERS!** Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to help us out in the coming year. All volunteers in the program must be VIRTUS trained and complete the Archdiocesan requirements for Protecting God's Children. Additionally, those called to be catechists need to work toward certification through the Archdiocese. Options are an online certification process or courses given through various areas of the Archdiocese. The Monday Night Medley at St. Julie's beginning on June 12<sup>th</sup> is a great way to get started! Details are in the R.E. Office and will be in the bulletin.
- All of our families are encouraged to participate in parish events like A Taste of St. George on June 4<sup>th</sup>, a Farewell Mass and Celebration for Fr. Tomy on June 25<sup>th</sup>, and the St. George picnic at the end of July.
- Maggie O'Connor and the St. George Youth Ministry will be hosting Vacation Bible School from June 19<sup>th</sup> to June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Families with younger children are highly encouraged to attend. Also, Middle School volunteers are needed!
- Fr. Ken always needs help in the garden!! St. George generates a great amount of fresh produce that goes to the Tinley Park Food Pantry each year. To volunteer, call the rectory (708) 532-2243 and ask for Fr. Ken.
- We are still finalizing our calendar for the coming year, but we intend to continue to build on the family involvement opportunities. For example, Opening Night Prayer / Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, no class during the Parish Mission so that our families may attend at least one night, November 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Day Mass (All Saints), Ash Wednesday Mass, and a Living Stations Dress Rehearsal on March 21<sup>st</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Commitment Mass/ Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. We will keep you posted as more details are solidified.
- We also intend to make SERVICE a priority for our students and their families. Details will be forthcoming...
- The Archdiocese is again putting on the HOLY FIRE event at UIC on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>; we will not be using this as our Confirmation Retreat this year. However, we do encourage Middle School students and parents to go; we will give you information on this -- optional but engaging and inspiring -- event as it becomes available.
- Finally, this is a reminder that regular, consistent participation at Sunday Mass is a required part of your family faith journey. Children's envelopes will again be provided.

It is with great anticipation that we look forward to another year of growing closer with God and with one another! Again, we thank you for all you do to make this a vibrant community of faith. We are looking forward to continuing our faith journey together!

If you have any concerns, please know that we are here to listen. You may call our office at (708) 532-8211.

Many blessings,



Angela Kvasnica, Coordinator

P.S. Please be advised that the renovations in the church will begin on July 5<sup>th</sup> and should go on through the end of September or early October. The St. George School Gym will be our sacred gathering space during that period. A new Mass schedule will begin in July, including no more Sunday evening Mass. Let us be supportive of one another as these improvements are made.