

Dear St. Peter's Families,

Enclosed you will find the catechesis registration form and calendar for 2010-2011.

**Please return the registration form by Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**You may mail them in, place them in the collection basket at Mass, fax them (704 358-0050), or access them on our website [www.stpeterscatholic.org](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org) and email them to the office at [faithform@stpeterscatholic.org](mailto:faithform@stpeterscatholic.org).**

Catechesis for children ages 3 through 12 is offered on either Wednesdays (6:15-7:30 pm) or Sundays (10:00-11:20 am). With over 130 students we simply have too many children to offer it only once a week. For safety's sake and to foster close catechist interaction there is a limit of 25 children enrolled in a session. It is hoped that those families living closer to the parish will consider the Wednesday option. Luckily, our Wednesday session has served some families quite well and has grown in popularity.

**Registrations are numbered as they are received at the parish** – once our Sunday sessions are full we will enroll your child in the Wednesday session. Generally, we are able to accommodate everyone's wishes. You will be notified if we change your meeting day before the year begins. ***If you do not hear of a change then you know that your wishes have been fulfilled.***

We have always stressed that catechesis is not a substitute for Mass. Now, thanks to the change in mass times, families can attend Mass and catechesis on Sundays! Finally, our children can explore the beauty and history of our liturgy in the atrium and still experience the Mass, the community and the graces of Eucharist. Our starting time for catechesis is at 10:00 am. We do realize, and expect, that families attending the 9:00 Mass will stop by Biss Hall for a snack before attending catechesis but please make an extra effort to be there by 10:15 am. Catechesis will end at 11:20 am so that families have a some time to grab a snack before the 11:30 am Mass. Parents make sure that children get to soccer practice, dance, music lessons and such on time, *it is expected that you will show the same respect to time for the religious life of your family and community.* **THANK YOU** for making the extra effort, we know it can be difficult at times and truly appreciate your sacrifice!

**The tuition for Faith Formation is \$25 per child.** While it is only a nominal fee it helps us to buy materials for the atria, and to train catechists (\$500 to \$1000 each depending on the level). Catholic School students enrolled in a sacramental program pay \$25 also. *If your child attends a public or a non-Catholic private school and enrolls in both Catechesis AND a sacramental program there is just the ONE FEE of \$25 (do not double your payment.)*

**NOBODY will be turned away because of fees!** If this payment poses a difficulty for your family simply pay what is comfortable whether it be \$1, \$5 or \$10. You will not get reminders about fees. We trust your good judgment as to your economic situation and will honor your decision.

Please note that the registration form has places for adults to volunteer as a Friend of Catechesis. We certainly need and would love to have your help! Time is such a valuable commodity for each of us and each job is needed whether it is a large or small commitment. Consider whether support for our catechetical program would fit into your schedule. You can be sure that however you volunteer it will lift your spirit and nurture the spirituality of many others. We need parishioners to become catechists, lend a hand at craft projects, help with general cleaning, take pictures, help us communicate to other parents and advocate on the children's behalf. **There will be an Atrium Assistant Training on Saturday, September 19 at 10:00 am in all three atria.** Please take some time and prayerfully consider the wonderful gifts and talents you have to offer. Is there some way that you help fill any of our needs?

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION – FIRST EUCHARIST**

Generally, it is second grade students who prepare for these sacraments. Preparation for First Reconciliation is in the fall and First Eucharist is in the spring.

The Diocese requires students to have one year of catechesis prior to their sacramental year as well as during the year of their sacramental preparation. In addition, all students, whether enrolled in public or parochial schools, must enroll in the parish sacramental program. The classes take place on selected Wednesday evenings, 6:15 – 7:30 pm. Classes are noted on the enclosed calendar. There are four group gatherings during reconciliation preparation and five during communion preparation. Both include a “mini-retreat” on a Saturday morning prior to the sacramental celebration. We also like to gather a couple of times during the year for a communal potluck meal. The group will decide on the best time and date to gather for them.

## **CONFIRMATION**

**Seventh grade students** (and older) meet on Sunday mornings, 10:00-11:20 am. Compared to their experience in the atria this preparation year includes more academic type work and spiritual discussions. The text used is *The Handbook of the Catholic Faith* from St. Mary’s Press. It is an excellent overview of our Church and Tradition and allows students to explore many areas of our Church life. They also examine the weekly mass readings utilizing *The Catholic Youth Bible*.

**Eighth grade students** must have completed Confirmation I or be in a Catholic school religious education program to enroll in Confirmation II. The year is spent putting “faith into action.” Students meet once a month for service opportunities and discussions leading to Confirmation, which is usually celebrated around Pentecost. The Bishop’s office sets the calendar for Confirmation; as we get information we will pass it along. Remember too, there is an adult Confirmation program at St. Peter’s for adults who desire to complete their sacramental journey.

## **COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Gathering for a meal echoes our Eucharistic celebration and is a way to foster community and friendship among our families and children. As part of our sacramental preparation we will occasionally gather for communal meals.

In addition, each Friday during Lent we offer the Stations of the Cross and a potluck meal that focuses on a third-world country from the Operation Rice Bowl program. This is an outstanding way to bring Lenten practices to life and worship as a family and community.

We also come together at Easter for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on The Green. All of these activities are fun ways to nurture our spirit and souls. We hope to see you at many of them!

Thank you for participating in our religious education program. It is such a pleasure to be in a parish filled with people of faith who are committed to giving our children the very best opportunities for spiritual growth. We are so blessed; with your help and prayers our catechetical program and community will continue to prosper and be the envy of many!

In Christ’s Peace and Love,

Clint Hunsche, Diane Stocker, Julie Pomeroy, Bob Tain, Sheree McDermott, Mary Goretti, Cecelia McGloughlin, Beth Haseley, Jean Wren, Susan Latessa, Joanne Shea, Fr. Pat Earl, Fr. Tom McDonnell, and Fr. Vince Alagia.