

August 2017

Dear Parents and Friends,

It's time once again to continue our journey of faith together. Classes begin on **September 24, 2017**. Please note registration dates and procedures for our Fall Program. Please have registration and medical forms returned for grades **2 & 9** students by **September 15th**. All other grades will complete registration and medical forms at the registration sessions listed below. The family handbook detailing procedures and requirements is available on line on our faith formation page and hard copies will be available during registration sessions. Please read through the handbook, as important information is detailed within.

We are always in need of volunteer catechists for all grades so that we can offer full sessions to all of the enrolled children. Please consider volunteering as a classroom teacher, assistant or a substitute teacher. Registration fees are waived for all of our teachers / assistants.

We are going to see a few changes as we embark on another year together. While no schedule will meet the specific needs of all of our parish families, significant changes to our schedule will take place this year intended to better serve the community as a whole. Each summer we evaluate the program details, including enrollment and attendance records. Improvement to this year's program begins with an adjustment to the first grade schedule. It has been our experience that first grade students arrive to weekday afternoon classes very tired from a full day of school. For most of our first graders, this proves to be a very difficult transition. In an attempt to better meet the developmental needs of our youngest learners, first graders will join our second grade first communion students on Sunday mornings following the 8:30am Mass, creating a pre-first communion class.

We have been evaluating the existing Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation class schedules for the past two years as attendance has become a significant issue for these groups in particular. The 4:00pm time slot for the Pre-Confirmation classes and the 6:30 – 8:00pm slot for the Confirmation class have resulted in very inconsistent attendance records. In an attempt to mitigate this issue we have explored other schedule times to attempt to improve this situation. I sent out a family survey this summer to all registered families entering grades 7, 8 & Confirmation. The survey offered multiple time/day choices from which to select. The response to the survey was done through an online website providing a quick and easy method by which to complete the survey. The results of the survey in addition to an evaluation of ministry needs, has led to a significant schedule change for the 2017/2018 academic year. It is our hope that the adjustment to this schedule will provide an opportunity for families to better plan their Sunday routines allowing their children to more fully participate in our faith formation program. This new schedule for these groups is already in use at most of the other parishes in our area and will also be introduced this year at St. Anthony's parish in East Falmouth. For families who find this new schedule more difficult, I will offer a more comprehensive on line/home school option. This year our Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation classes will meet at the same time allowing for some cooperation between the two groups. These groups will meet following the 10:30am Mass running from 11:30am-1:00pm. Classes will begin with Pizza and shared learning for the first 15-20 minutes of class followed by grade specific learning.

Finally, with the movement of first graders to Sunday mornings, the weekday schedule for students in grades 3-6 will take place on Tuesdays only. There will not be a Thursday schedule at this time.

We will evaluate the effects of these changes during the year and make adjustments if needed the following year.

FORMS MAILED OUT TO PARENTS:

First Eucharist Class - for those who have successfully completed grade 1.

Confirmation Class (grade 9) – for those who have successfully completed Pre-Confirmation.

REGISTRATION SESSIONS

REGISTRATION IN PERSON – in the Parish Hall – for new, returning and home-schooled students in grades 1, 3-6.

Sunday, September 10th 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

REGISTRATION IN PERSON – in the Parish Hall – for new, returning and home-schooled students in grades 7 & 8 Pre-Confirmation. For those who have completed the work of the previous grade.

Sunday, September 10th 1:00 pm Parent meeting, followed by registration

A family fee of \$50 is requested at the time of registration. Baptismal certificates for new students who were not baptized at Christ the King are needed.

The parish has a new computer program. You **must** be a registered parishioner in order for your child(ren) to attend Faith Formation classes. If you are unsure if you are registered, just call the parish office at 508-477-7700 and the secretary will look it up for you. If you are not registered, you only need to fill out a simple registration form.

HOME – SCHOOL PROGRAM

Parents who are unable to have their child(ren) attend Tuesday classes or Sunday Pre-Confirmation classes may enroll their child(ren) in our home-school program. Parents may register and receive class materials on any of the above registration day and times. We do **not** have a Home-School program for the First Communion or Confirmation Programs.

Thank you for your continued support as we learn and live together on our journey of faith.

God Bless,

Kathleen Laird M.Ed Director of Faith Formation

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