

St. Catherine of Genoa

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Dear Parents:

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far! It is once again time to start preparing for Religious Education! If you have a child who is entering Kindergarten, your child is also ready to enter Religious Education! Our program encompasses all grades from Kindergarten thru Confirmation (entering 9th & 10th Grade).

The first day of class for Religious Education is the Sunday following Labor Day, Sunday, September 11th at 9:00 a.m. This year we will continue to have the last Sunday of the month off of Religious Education. The last Sunday of each month will be reserved for parish events such as coffee & rolls Sunday, parish breakfasts, fundraisers and the like.

Our "Parent Orientation & Annual Meeting" is scheduled for Thursday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. At Parent Orientation, you will have the opportunity to meet the Religious Education teachers and aides, review our curriculum materials, and get detailed parent information and "Opt-Out" forms for the Diocesan Chastity and Safe Environment Program. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and you will get a copy of our "Religious Education Parent Handbook." The Parent Handbook is filled with useful information including parents' role in the education and catechesis of their children, the rules and regulations of our R.E. program, emergency and weather related procedures, the new classroom and teacher assignments for each grade, as well as Sacrament information for 1st Communion and Confirmation. Also included is information regarding our Sacrament Preparation Course for students who are in 3rd Grade or older and have not yet received their Sacraments of Reconciliation and/or First Holy Communion.

We have lowered the age of our Confirmation students from those entering 10th & 11th Grades, to those entering 9th & 10th Grades. We made this decision after much prayer, research and discussion on how to best meet the needs of our parents and students. We will be requesting a FALL 2012 Confirmation date from the Bishop, in order to assure that we get a complete R.E. year of curriculum with the students. Our Confirmation Retreat will be scheduled in the fall of 2012, once we receive our Confirmation date from the Bishop. You will not be required to re-register or pay an additional Sacrament Fee in the fall of 2012. In future years, we will be confirming our students in the fall following their 9th Grade year. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Enclosed you will find the Registration Form for Religious Education, the Parental Pledge and the R.E. Calendar for 2011-2012. Please fill out the Registration Form completely and return it to me with a signed copy of the Parental Pledge and the registration fee before August 14th, 2011. Please note that there is an additional fee for the Sacrament Preparation classes, to help cover costs of additional materials and their retreats. Therefore, if you have a child entering 2nd Grade or a 9th or 10th Grade student in Confirmation, please add \$30.00 to the total registration fee.

If you are unable to pay the entire registration fee at this time, we can arrange for a payment plan to fit your needs. There are also financial scholarships available for those in severe need. We will never turn a student away due to inability to pay the registration fee, so please give me a call if we need to work out a payment plan!

Meanwhile, I hope you and your family have a wonderful summer! I will see you at "Parent Orientation" on August 25th! If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me at any time.

Yours in Christ,

Alaisa Kingston Emmens
Director of Religious Education

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Enclosures

"As Christian disciples we are entrusted with the mission of a renewal of faith through evangelization, catechesis, stewardship and outreach to our diverse community."