

July 26, 2017

Dear Parents,

After a very long winter, I hope you are enjoying this gorgeous summer!

Last year we were unable to have a Pre-K program, but thanks to some very brave people we will have our Pre-K program back!! We enjoyed the company of the parents during the family programs. In the classroom, the children participated in a variety of prayer experiences, activities, and lessons that helped to deepen their Catholic Faith. We were able to start up a middle school youth ministry that not only met weekly but also served and worked in our community!

This year, we look forward to building upon this foundation. The enclosed calendar highlights pertinent dates for the Religious Education program. Our Youth Group meets every Tuesday from 6PM-7:30PM in the St. Francis Chapel. We will continue with family programming and look forward to gathering with you.

Enclosed, you will also find a registration form to enroll your child(ren) in the RE programs at Sacred Heart. Please fill this out and submit it as soon as possible so we can place our order for supplies and materials.

"Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children," states the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2223). To that end, we could always use more catechists and co-catechists in the classroom. If you are interested in this important ministry, please let me know. Training and encouragement are provided.

If this is a sacramental year for your child, please make sure to mark this on the forms. First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation all have a two-year preparation process as required by the Diocese of Peoria. This means that to be eligible for the Sacrament, your child would need to have been in a religious education program last year. There is an additional fee to cover retreat supplies and expenses if your child is making a Sacrament. Please see the registration form for details. There are also extra days that go along with these Sacraments, these days are required and so please make sure to mark them in your calendar.

This year we are looking towards service and outreach that we can do as a Religious Education, and Parish, community. So please watch out for those opportunities. We will continue with our Children Led Masses, and love when the kids step up to participate, so watch out for those dates as well.

As a reminder, ALL parent/student days count toward the absence policy. Your child is allowed 3 days of absence, after that they will meet with Fr. Mark and myself to figure out how to fix things. After that if the absences continue your child will have to repeat the Religious Education year.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. We look forward to ministering with your family this year. Peace to you!

Ivy M Padula

Ivy Padula
Director of Religious Education

Fr. Mark Desutter

Fr. Mark DeSutter
Pastor