

St. Paul's Parish Faith Formation
1807 Bedford St, Rome, NY 13440

Kathy Sledziona, D.R.E.
Phone: (315) 334 – 9570

Web site www.stpaulsrome.com

Email: spfaith@twcny.rr.com

August, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Greetings in Christ!

Welcome back everyone! New this year: Religious education classes for children in Grades **K – 6** will be offered on **Wednesday** mornings from 8:00 – 9:00 am starting on **September 23**. Classes for children in Grades 5 – 10, including Confirmation will be held on Monday evening from 6:30 – 7:30 pm beginning on **September 21**. **No classes will be held on Thursday morning.** On the registration form, please check the day your 5th or 6th grade child will attend class.

I wish we could provide an alternative day for children in all grade levels. A 9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday morning option is a possibility down the road. If you would be interested in having your children attend a Sunday morning class, please check the box on the registration form. If there is enough interest and we could find catechists willing to teach on Sunday mornings, we will explore the possibility of a Sunday program, if not for this year, for 2010 - 2011. If you are faced with a conflict on Wednesday morning or Monday evening, please let me know and I will try to help you find a solution.

Enclosed you will find a Religious Education and Sacrament Preparation **Family Registration Form** and appropriate schedule(s) for the coming year. Please complete, sign and return the form noting any needed corrections or updates. This form is required each year that you have a child enrolled. In order to prepare adequate teachers, books and materials for everyone; please return your Registration Form by **September 11**.

If you are new to our parish or if this is the first time your child will attend, you will be asked to complete an Individual Student Record Form for each new child in addition to the Family Registration Form. If your child attends Rome Catholic School and will join us for First Penance, First Eucharist or Confirmation, please register by September 11 to ensure you receive all necessary information about Sacrament preparation.

For each child in **Grades K – 6** you will find a *green* **Release Time Form**. Please complete one form for **each** child who will attend on **Wednesday morning**. If your child will attend on Monday evening or attends Rome Catholic, the release time form is not necessary. Please return the "School Copy" directly to your child's school and the "Church copy" with your Family Registration Form.

Again this year, the fee schedule is broken down by category to more accurately reflect the actual cost. We have kept the Faith Formation fees the same as last year and cap the total amount due at \$100 per family. We realize that some of you may find it difficult to pay the requested fees. If you are unable to pay that amount, please send what you can afford. If you are in a position to send in a donation to help those who cannot afford to pay, it will be received with our sincere gratitude. **No one will be denied the opportunity to attend classes or receive a Sacrament due to financial hardship.** The Fee Schedule is located on the back of your Family Registration Form.

It would not be possible to have a Faith Formation Program without our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to all of our catechists and aides who share with parents the awesome responsibility of handing on our Catholic Faith. Please consider serving as a volunteer in our Faith Formation Program. We are in need of catechists, aides and helpers on Wednesday morning and Monday evening. All of our catechists are required to have VIRTUS certification. Catechists attend a course entitled: "Protecting God's Children" and submit to a background check. Re-certification is required every five years. Please call me if you would consider joining our team. We offer training and support to all who serve. **Registration and book fees are waived for parents who serve as catechists.**

Please try to have your children arrive on time for class. We lose valuable class time with every late arrival. We treasure the time we share with your children, and try to make it meaningful. A full hour of teaching time each week would help us greatly.

On **Wednesday morning**, parents bring their children to St. Paul's Parish Center using the back entrance of the Parish Center. Please have your child arrive by 7:55 am. If you wish, you may walk your child to the classroom. Children will be bused to Denti, Bellamy @ Fort Stanwix, John Joy, Ridge Mills, Stokes and Staley after class on Wednesdays. If you will be picking up your child after class on Wednesday morning, please send a note or call ahead; please wait inside near the Religious Education Office for your child to be dismissed from class.

On **Monday evenings**, parents are responsible for bringing their children to and from class. Please use the front (link) doors to the Parish Center. On Monday evening, the back (bus) doors remain locked before and during class.

Giving a high priority to weekly attendance at Mass and fitting Faith Formation and Sacrament Preparation Classes into busy family schedules teaches our children that our Catholic Faith has meaning and value. Please call if you have any questions. May God bless us and grant us...

Peace,

Kathy

enc

1. Religious Education-Sacrament Program Family Registration Form with Fee Schedule on reverse (*white*)
2. Letter to Parents regarding childhood sexual abuse prevention (*ivory*)
3. Faith Formation Schedule (*gold*)

Additional forms may be included:

4. Release Time Form for each child in grades K – 6 (*green*)
5. First Eucharist Schedule, child in Grade 2 (*salmon*)
6. First Penance Schedule, child in Grade 2 (*orchid*)
7. Confirmation Schedule with Conf. Information on reverse, child in Grade 10 (*cherry*)
8. Confirmation Service Report (*cherry*)