



ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

808 S. East Avenue Oak Park, IL 60304 PH 708-848-3099 FAX 708-848-2773 www.ascensionchurch.com/re

*You owe it to yourself to learn who you are meant to be
And you owe it to the rest of creation as well.*

*Become who you are.
Complete the universe.*

Vargas

July 16, 2008

Dear Religious Education Families,

At our Baptism we discover who we are meant to be. Each of us is a beloved child of God. The goal of Ascension's Religious Education program is to educate children in their faith but more importantly we strive to create a community where children learn to live their faith by observing the lives of those around them. We do this by listening to God's Word with the children and by sharing the 2000 year history of Christians trying to be faithful to that Word. Catechists and students together try to enrich their understanding of what it means to be a child of God. We are honored that you have chosen us to continue the work you have so faithfully begun.

When we become who we truly are we change the world. Last year we did change the world. A school now stands in Angola where there was none. Our contribution of over \$11,000 helped to make that possible. What great joy! And yet, we need only to look at the news to discover that the rest of creation is still waiting for us.

I warmly welcome you to another year of Religious Education. This year we will continue to do the work of building God's kingdom and changing our world. I look forward to greeting all new and returning families in September. I encourage you to participate as fully as you can this year by volunteering for at least one of our activities and events. We hope to continue improving our communications with you through email and our website. I pray that God will bless our efforts.

- **Opening School Mass: Fr. Larry extends a special invitation to all Religious Education families to attend a Mass to begin the new school year. We will gather in church on Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00 PM for our Opening School Mass. Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday families are invited. We will pray for God's blessings on all who are part of our program; children, parents, catechists and support staff. Please mark your calendar with this important date.**
- **Ascension-reled@hotmail.com: This is our office e-mail address. You may use it to communicate with our office.**
- **Website: Please visit our website at www.ascensionchurch.com/re during the year for calendar items, event information, photos and forms.**
- **Emergency Form: Please fill in the emergency information form and RETURN IT WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.**
- **Permission slip: We will have some pictures on our website of religious education events—ex. Pumpkin sale, sacramental meetings etc. To do this we need permission to use children's pictures. If you agree to allow us to do this please sign the appropriate space on the form and return it to us.**
- **An abbreviated class session schedule is included in this mailing. A complete schedule will be given to your child on the first day of class. Please use this schedule until you receive the new one.**

Emergency Phone Numbers

Family Name _____

We understand that families sometimes use Religious Education class time to run errands or attend Mass, thereby not being immediately available if an emergency arises with their children during class. Please provide us with an emergency name and number and your cell phone number for our use in an emergency. Thank you.

Emergency Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

Dad's Cell Phone: _____

Mom's Cell Phone: _____

Parental Consent Form for Reproduction on our Web Site

Child/ren Name _____

I hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of the above-named minor child, and warrant that I have the legal authority to execute this consent form on behalf of this child.

I hereby give permission for Ascension Religious Education to use my child's photo on its website. I understand that my child's name will not be used on this website.

Signature: _____ Name: _____
(print name)

Please return this page with your registration form.

REGISTRATION

Included with this letter is a Registration Form for the 2008-2009 school year. Please take some time in the next few days to fill out the form completely. If you have a child entering the program for the first time, you must fill in the information on the back of the form and **provide a copy of your child's baptismal certificate.**

Please return this form as soon as possible. Timely registrations enable us to prepare our class lists and determine our need for additional catechists. Mail the completed form to the religious education office or return it to the rectory. You may also drop off completed forms in person on registration weekend.

Please note: The deadline for current Catechesis of the Good Shepherd students is August 22. We will make available any openings in these sessions on August 23 to accommodate new students.

**REGISTRATION WEEKEND
August 23 and 24 - After All Masses
East Avenue Entrance of Church**

**Additional Registration Times
August 25 to August 29
8:00 AM to Noon (M-F), 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (Mon., Wed. only)
Religious Education Office - 808 S. East Avenue**

**AND
September 2, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Religious Education Office
808 S. East Ave.**

INFORMATION REGARDING CLASSES

Sunday Morning Classes begin on September 7 at 10:00 AM

Class assignments will be posted in the entryway to the School. Students will report to their classrooms for a full session.

Sunday morning sessions of the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** will also begin on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM in the Parish Center Chapel (4-6 yr. old) or Parish Center Lower Level (7-9 yr. old).

Tuesday Evening Classes begin on September 9 at 6:55 PM

Class assignments will be posted in the entryway to the School. Children will report to their classrooms at 6:55 PM for an evening of class. Children in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program will meet at 6:55 PM in the Parish Center Chapel (4-6 yr. old) or the Parish Center Lower Level (7-9 yr. old). Parents will be invited to join us on **Tuesday, September 23 for our Beginning of the Year Mass at 7:00 PM.**

Wednesday Afternoon Classes begin on September 10 at 3:30 PM.

Three levels of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are offered on Wednesday afternoons. We will offer sessions for 4-6 year olds, 7-9 year olds and 9-12 year olds. All levels meet in the Parish Center – Level I (4-6 year olds) in the Parish Center Chapel, Level II (7-9 year olds) in the Parish Center Lower Level and Level III (9-12 year olds) in the Parish Center Dining Room.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY -- SEPTEMBER 21

The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church

On Sunday, September 21, at the 11:00 AM Mass, we will commission all catechists in the parish. Please set aside this date and time and join us to pray with and for our catechists as they begin a new year. On this day only, 10:00 AM classes will dismiss at 10:45 AM to allow our catechists to attend the 11:00 Mass.

PAYMENT

Full payment of tuition and fees is recommended at the time of registration. . If this is not possible, 1/3 of the total is due at registration; 1/3 is due by November 30; and final payment of all tuition and fees is due by January 31. **Registrations will not be accepted without some payment of tuition.** If, for any reason, you cannot pay the required tuition, contact Christine Ondrla in the Religious Education Office (708-848-3099). You will be given you a waiver form to fill out and return to the Office. According to a policy established by the Religious Education Board, **waivers will be available only until FEBRUARY 15**. If you have not signed a waiver by that date, full payment of tuition will be expected. Waivers are for **tuition only**. Book and sacramental fees are expected to be paid for each child.

This year we encourage you to be conscious of your sharing in the following areas:

- * full payment of Religious Education tuition and fees
- * weekly Sunday contribution
- * donation of supplies and materials to the program
- * purchasing shopping Certificates (4% to 29% of the cost of these certificates goes to the support of Ascension Parish)

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

In order to facilitate our record keeping and accounting, if your child's last name differs from the parents' name, please indicate the child's full name, as well as your own. In addition, when making tuition or fee payments, **DO NOT** deposit them in the Sunday collection basket. They may not be credited to your account in our office.

Respectfully,

Christine Ondrla, DRE

INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING:

- Registration Form
- Volunteer Form
- Emergency Form
- Permission for Web Page
- Abbreviated calendar (on back of this page)