



ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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*Leisure is the balance between work and rest,
it is the opposite of idleness because
it is the basis from which good work starts and grows.*

Br. David Steindl-Rast

July 16, 2010

Dear Religious Education Families,

This summer I have had the great blessing to experience *leisure*. I have enjoyed spending time with my family, visiting friends, attending the symphony and theater and celebrating my seven grandchildren.

During this time of leisure I came upon a quote from my favorite spiritual author, Joan Chittister. She writes, "To become something new we must consciously do something different than we have been doing. That's why we have the Sabbath and rest and *leisure*". A few new ideas have begun to form. I hope they will grow into the good works of this year. In these leisurely days of summer all things seems possible.

This year we intend to focus on "Parents First." We are going to try something different so we can become something new. The catechetical focus this year is "Matrimony: Sacrament of Enduring Love." At first glance this title might seem out of place. Yet, it is the sacrament of marriage that provides a foundation which can nurture and support the spiritual development of your children. You promised to raise strong, Christian children and one of the ways you do this is by participating in the religious education program. We are honored that you have chosen to trust us with this responsibility. We are eager to help. Throughout this year, look for ways that we will be offering to assist you in this important job.

On Monday, September 27, Todd Williamson from the Office for Divine Worship will speak to us about the joy and meaning of a Sacramental Life. This will be the **FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR FOR ALL FAMILIES WHO ARE PREPARING FOR SACRAMENTS** (First Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation '11) Please mark your calendars now. A flyer is included in this mailing. All other families are also invited. Todd is a very lively and engaging speaker. You will leave his presentation with a deeper sense of your own sacramental life, a source to draw on as you work and pray with your children this year.

We continue the partnership we began with Dominican University last year. On **October 12 at 7:00PM** they will present a program entitle "**Tradition: What was handed on to me—passing the faith from one generation to the next.**" Melissa Musick Nussbaum and Anna Keating will engage their audience in thinking about how faith is passed on. They will share ideas for how you can do this effectively in your own

home. Please mark your calendars for this presentation. **Ascension Parish will pay the entrance fee for anyone who wants to attend this event. Tickets will be available, for free, at the door on the night of the presentation.**

Café Drogo is THE PLACE to meet and greet this year. Last year a few families began spending the 10:00 hour on Sunday drinking coffee and socializing with other parents in the Pine Room while their children were in class. Coffee is provided by the Religious Ed program and served by our very capable Confirmation Candidates. You don't have to have a child in Sunday classes in order to move to the Pine Room after the 9 or before the 11 Mass. We hope to see you there this year.

There are still a few days of leisure left before our year begins. Perhaps you, too, have some good ideas to share with us. If this is your first year with us I am grateful for all the new energy and enthusiasm you will bring. I invite you to become involved in some way this year. Please volunteer to work at one of our events, attend one of the prayer services, join us for coffee or attend the presentations of one of the speakers. To all who are returning, I rely on your warmth and experience to welcome the new families and introduce them to the program.

The French poet Charles Peguy wrote *'I love the one who sleeps,' says God.* Rest and leisure are the gifts of the summer. May they renew and recreate us so that we might awake refreshed and ready to reap the benefits of the new year.

Peace,
Christine A. Ondula, D.R.E.

- **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 28 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.**

REGISTRATION

Included with this letter is a Registration Form for the 2010-2011 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 Parish Center. 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 10. WE WILL MAKE AVAILABLE ANY OPENINGS IN THESE SESSIONS ON AUGUST 11 TO ACCOMMODATE NEW STUDENTS. The maximum class size for this year will be kept to 13 in each atrium level.

**REGISTRATION WEEKEND
August 28 and 29 - After All Masses
East Avenue Entrance of Church**

**AND
August 31, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM
Religious Education Office
808 S. East Ave.**

All Registrations should be in our office by September 1, 2010

INFORMATION REGARDING CLASSES

**Regular Program Classes meet in the School Building – 601 Van Buren Street
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Classes meet in the Parish Center building –
808 S. East Avenue**

Tuesday Evening Classes begin on September 7 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 28 for our Beginning of the Year Mass at 7:00 PM.**

Wednesday Afternoon Classes begin on September 8 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.

Sunday Morning Classes begin on September 12 at 10:00 AM

Class assignments for the Regular Program 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. 12 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).

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY -- SEPTEMBER 19

Matrimony: Sacrament of Enduring Love

On Sunday, September 19 at the 9:00 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 begin immediately following the Mass. Parent are invited to join us in the Pine Room for hospitality and a brief presentation.

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
- Todd Williamson flyer

Class Schedules - 2010-2011

Sunday Classes

September 12 Class #1
 19 Class #2
 26 Class #3
 October 3 Class #4
 10 **No Class**
 17 Class #5
 24 Class #6
 31 Class #7
 November 7 Class #8
 14 Class #9
 21 Class #10
 28 **No Class**
 December 5 Class #11
 12 Class #12
 19 Class #13
 26 **No Class**
 January 2 **No Class**
 9 Class #14
 16 Class #15
 23 Class #16
 30 **No Class**
 February 6 Class #17
 13 Class #18
 20 **No Class**
 27 Class #19
 March 6 Class #20
 13 Class #21
 20 Class #22
 27 **No Class**
 April 3 Class #23
 10 Class #24
 17 Class #25
 24 **No Class**
 May 3 Closing
 Liturgy
 (Tuesday)

Tuesday Classes

September 7 Class #1
 14 Class #2
 21 Class #3
 28 Class #4
 October 5 **No Class**
 12 Class #5
 19 Class #6
 26 Class #7
 November 2 **No Class**
 9 Class #8
 16 Class #9
 23 Class #10
 30 Class #11
 December 7 Class #12
 14 Class #13
 21 **No Class**
 28 **No Class**
 January 4 **No Class**
 11 Class #14
 18 Class #15
 25 Class #16
 February 1 **No Class**
 8 Class #17
 15 Class #18
 22 Class #19
 March 1 **No Class**
 8 Mardi Gras
 15 Class #20
 22 Class #21
 29 **No Class**
 April 5 Class #22
 12 Class #23
 19 Class #24
 26 Class #25
 May 3 Closing
 Liturgy
 (Tuesday)

Wednesday Classes

September 8 Class #1
 15 Class #2
 22 Class #3
 29 Class #4
 October 6 Class #5
 13 Class #6
 20 Class #7
 27 Class #8
 November 3 Class #9
 10 Class #10
 17 Class #11
 24 **No Class**
 December 1 Class #12
 8 Class #13
 15 Class #14
 22 **No Class**
 29 **No Class**
 January 5 **No Class**
 12 Class #15
 19 Class #16
 26 Class #17
 February 2 Class #18
 9 Class #19
 16 Class #20
 23 Class #21
 March 2 Class #22
 9 Class #23 *
 16 Class #24
 23 Class #25
 30 **No Class**
 April 6 Class #26
 13 Class #27
 20 Class #28

* and Ash Service