

St. Christopher Religious Education

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Dear parents,

Each year efforts are being made here at St. Christopher to support parents in the formation and religious education of their children as well as continued education for ourselves. Beyond lesson planning and meetings our catechists have continued to attend formation and education workshops to learn new and innovative ways to share their love of God with your children. As we strive to build up the Church of Jesus Christ, the year continues to be full of opportunities for us to come together and celebrate all that God has given us. The month of October is the month of the Rosary. This past week we shared the experience of praying the rosary in thanksgiving for Mary, the mother of our Lord and our Church. Although each service was different the goal was on building community and sharing prayer.

The Eucharistic feast is essential for us as followers of Christ to know that we are loved and to share that love with one another. On Nov 14th at the 5:30 mass our 4th and 5th graders will join the school 4th and 5th graders to celebrate their Family Mass. This is an important day in our community as well as in our families. Please come out and support these children as they prepare to express their faith through music and art.

The month of November also gives us an opportunity to pray in service of God's people. On Wed. Nov. 18th and Mon Nov 23rd we will celebrate mass in thanksgiving for the blessings each of us have received throughout the year. We are also coming together to pray for those who are in need. This year we will bring our food donations to the table of the Lord. I encourage you to discuss this important issue with your child. We ask that throughout the month each RE student bring to class at least one non-perishable food item, one of his or her FAVORITES; ie. Lucky Charms, Fruit Rollups, granola bars, mac and cheese...to share with children of families from our community who do not have the resources to purchase these items. It would be good if they could shop with you and for older children if they could use their own money to make the purchase. Any and all donations would be gratefully appreciated. This is also a good opportunity to share with your child the information regarding our Tuesday night dinners that are offered here at the parish. In Dec our catechists have volunteered their time to serve. With our economy in distress, job lay-offs and cut backs, we are certain that many of our families are in need of a good hot meal; we need to be welcoming and feel welcomed as well.

Just a reminder for you to off-set some of your tuition expense we continue to offer the T.R.I.P. program. A small percentage of what you spend in each order goes toward your tuition amount. With the holidays coming up you will likely be purchasing from many of our vendors. We offer certificates once a

week, just make sure you mention your family name and that you write on the order from that your child is in the RE program so we can apply the credit properly. Family and friends can also purchase in your name and give you the benefit. As many of our families can attest the benefits add up quickly. Call our office or the Parish Center for more information.

Our program is also challenged by the economic situation. Please try to stay regular in your tuition payments. I am willing to work with you regarding payments, but you need to communicate with me so we can make arrangements. If I do not hear from you I can only guess, and that is not fair to either one of us.

Once again I remind you to please mark your calendar as to the changes that have occurred in our schedule. We **will** be having class on Wed. Nov 11th, however we **are not** having class on Wed. Nov 25th.

As always thank you for entrusting us in assisting you as together we form the faith-life of your child.

Jeanne Lassandrello
Pastoral Associate/DRE