

## St. Christopher Religious Education

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January 2012

Dear Parents,

Another calendar year has begun. The excitement and anticipation of a New Year brings new life. I look forward to sharing the new life of Ordinary Time in our liturgical year again. During Ordinary Time we hear the stories of miracles and parable through Jesus' ministry. Nothing ordinary about that! It is part of the Church cycle that encourages us to slow down a bit.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are preparing for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. As often is the case we look to the upcoming classes and wonder if we will ever get to the point that we believe these children are prepared. It is around this time of year as I review their service sheets, read their papers and observe their classrooms. I see that they have turned the corner and are ready to take on their responsibilities to continue to serve God and God's people. I ask that you pray for them and that you feel free to join them and celebrate with us and Bishop Wypych as they receive the sacrament on Sunday January 22, at 1:00. It is after this day that their initiation into the Church is complete and their adult ministry begins. I am concerned that we often believe that at Confirmation our religious instruction is over. Yet we know it is at that very moment when the Holy Spirit descends upon them that their education actually begins.

I believe that my responsibility as the Director of the St Christopher Religious Education Program is to walk with you and your family as together we bring your children closer to Jesus. We have progress reports to let you know how your child is doing. Along with this letter you have received your child's progress report. We know that there are some things that can be measured; faith is not one of them. What we assess is whether or not they are prepared for class, respect those in the classroom and make an effort to learn the material presented. This cannot be accomplished without your assistance. I have noticed that many but not all of our students have worked very hard to place the traditional prayers of the Church in their hearts. Without your help the children cannot learn their prayers. We need to arm them with the strength to build a good relationship with Jesus through prayer. What we know is that at difficult times in our lives we lean on the prayers that we know by heart. Allow your child to know the comfort of our tradition by helping them place those prayers in their hearts as well. We have spent much of the first part of the year preparing for the changes that have occurred in the celebration of mass this November. I for one still rely on the cards in the pews for the Creed. I do not expect your child to know that one yet. However, for the older students it will be part of the requirement at the end of the school year. We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of catechists who love God, love our Church and love to share their faith with our students. We have dedicated parents who give of their time to make sure our hallways and parking lots are safe. Please take the time when you see any of them to thank them for their dedication.

Finally, I have worked very diligently trying to keep expenses to a minimum. We are sending our tuition statements through email, please keep our records accurate so that we can reduce the cost of mailings. I rely heavily on the promise you made to pay your fees in a timely manner. We have made arrangements to offer you a payment plan; please do not put us on the bottom of the pile of bills. At the end of the month we will begin to do the work needed to plan for next year; with much success comes more challenges. Pray for us!

Respectfully,

Jeanne Lassandrello  
Pastoral Associate/DRE

Carol Pretkelis  
Coordinator of Religious Education