

St. Mary's Parish Religious Education Office 8 Church Street, Holliston, MA 01746

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April 12, 2019

Dear St. Mary's Families,

By the promises you made at your child's Baptism to teach them in the Catholic faith, we are happy that you are choosing to partner with St. Mary's to assist your children on their faith journey. This lifelong journey includes full participation in the Teachings and Traditions of the Catholic Church as Jesus taught. As Sacramental people we participate in weekly Mass, continue our faith formation in religious education and beyond while praying with our families.

Registration for Religious Education is upon us again and it time to **renew** your registration for 2019-2020.

- In this Registration Packet you will find a printed Cover Sheet with your family information.
- Please review the Cover Sheet and make any changes necessary on it to update our Parish Data Base.
- Complete the enclosed 2019-2020 Registration Form along with the "Family Covenant."
- Make sure that the front side of the Registration Form includes your child's full name, the Grade

entering in 2019, along with the class Session / Day (A, B, C, D) and time.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019: As always we need your help making a smooth transition in the fall for your children and as soon as we receive your registrations we can prepare the classes and work with our Grade Coordinators recruiting teachers. Registrations received after the due date and beyond make it difficult for or staff to plan for the fall. Regardless if you are unable to send in the total registration fees at this time **PLEASE** register your children now. The minimum is a \$50.00 deposit. **We do offer scholarships and payment plans.**

FINANCIAL NEEDS: DO NOT LET FINANCIAL NEEDS KEEP YOU FROM REGISTERING YOUR CHILD NOW. JUST COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK THE BOX IN THE TUITION SECTION FOR A PAYMENT PLAN OR SCHOLARSHIP. All information is kept confidential. You will be sent a **'Payment Plan Form'** or a **"Scholarship Form"** as you request in the **Tuition Section of the form.** No child will ever be denied enrollment due to family financial needs.

CONFIRMATION NOTICES: The Confirmation date for those returning in September in Grade 11 is **Saturday**, **September 28, 2019**. There will be two Masses offered for Confirmation, 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. <u>ALSO</u>: Families registering their teens for **Grades 9 and 10 for 2019** must attend weekend Masses, either with their parents or at the 11:30 AM Sunday Mass for teens. Letters will be sent out soon regarding Confirmation requirements for those receiving the Sacrament on Sept. 28 and those entering Grades 9 and 10 in September.

<u>OPENING DAY</u>: Opening days are the weeks of Sunday, September 15, 22 and 29 for Grades K through GR-6 and the weeks of October 6 for Grades 7 through 10.

EMAIL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS. Please update your Email address or telephone numbers if there have been changes. Please print clearly on the Registration Form any change. Our office and Grade Coordinators will be using both mail and Email to communicate with you during the year.

<u>CONSENT FORM SECTION</u>: Make sure this section is signed to give the parish permission for your child to be photographed during church events for the Sunday Bulletin and parish Newsletter.

OVER PLEASE

PRE-K PROGRAM: Our Pre-K Program is open to three and four year old children. Parents are required to stay during classes which begin in October.

<u>GRADE 1 AND 2 SACRAMENTAL YEARS</u>: The completion of Grade 1 is required before a child enters Grade 2. Please note that parents and guardians are REQUIRED to attend the parent meetings offered during class time and participate with their children in the Inscription Mass in October and the Grade 2 Retreat in the spring.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM: If your child has special learning needs, please let us know on the registration form. We have two special needs teachers trained to assist students in the classroom. These teachers will be glad to meet with you and discuss your child's needs.

FAMILY BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATON FOR GRADES 3, 4 AND 5 ONLY: Parents who choose this option teach their children at home and are provided lesson plans and text books by our grade level Coordinators. Parents and Guardians are **required to sign an agreement promising to attend the two teacher meetings held during the year.** Students are expected to submit completed work throughout the year to the Grade Coordinator. Families have the right to educate and teach their children at home in matters of the Catholic Faith and Traditions.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR FAMILY BASED HOME SCHOOLING FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: If you are registered as a St. Mary's Parishioner and decide to teach other children in your home other than your own child, be advised that "*St. Mary's Parish will not be liable for any injuries or accidents incurred outside of the church property.*"

ATTENDANCE: In order for children to benefit from their faith formation it is essential that they attend their scheduled classes. Classes meet on alternate weeks except for Grade 6 which meets weekly. Please refer to the "Family Covenant" regarding class attendance. Missing two classes on an alternate week places a burden on a child to catch up with class material. We realize that family circumstances and illness can prevent attendance; however, parents are required to assist their child at home with missed lessons and inform their child's teacher regarding their child's absence.

<u>CLASS PLACEMENT REQUESTS</u>: We do not accept placement requests except for pastoral reasons such as a child having learning challenges. A request for a child to attend class with a friend will not be honored.

SAFETY MONITORS NEEDED: Every year we ask for people to offer their time as a Monitor during scheduled class time to collect attendance, record absences, make calls to families regarding absences and occasionally assist with office needs such as folding letters and mailings. Classes will not begin in September without Monitors in place. **Please see the Monitor flyer enclosed**.

VOLUNTEER TEACHERS - WHAT IS INVOLVED IN TEACHING A CLASS?

- 1. Two teacher Meetings with the Grade level Coordinators during the year.
- 2. Attending Teacher Training and faith formation classes when offered.
- 3. A **DESIRE** to share your faith with the children and bring them closer to Christ.
- 4. COMPLETE A CORI FORM, A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM, A CATECHIST COVENANT AND A PGC WORKSHOP (*Protecting God's Children*). Please watch the bulletin for listings in August.

<u>GREEN VOLUNTEER FORM</u>: Please prayerfully consider giving your time to volunteer for the Religious Education Program for Grades Pre-K through 10, our Youth Ministry, our Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), our EPIC High School Trips and more. Return the volunteer form with your Registration Form if you can volunteer in any capacity.

<u>CLASS SCHEDULE</u>: There is a **bright yellow 2019-2020 Class Schedule** enclosed to make your choices for Grades Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grades 1–10. Make sure that you enter the class Session on the line provided: "A" is for Sunday, "B" for Monday, "C" for Tuesday, "D" for Wednesday, "E" for Thursday and "F" for Family Based at home.

Our staff wishes you a blessed and joyful summer with good rest amongst family and friends.

Yours in Christ's service,

The Religious Education Staff