



ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

808 S. East Avenue Oak Park, IL 60304 PH 708-848-3099 FAX 708-848-2773 www.ascensionoakpark.com/religious-ed
July 19, 2017

Dear Ascension Religious Education Parents,

It is registration time! Class sizes are limited so please turn in forms ASAP.

Registration Deadlines:

- Wed., Aug 16, 2017 - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)
- Thur., Aug 31, 2017 - Traditional Religious Education (TRE)/Family Faith Formation (FFF)

Other Key Dates:

- FFF – Info Meeting; Thur., Aug. 10 @ 7:30 pm, Pine Room
- RE Registration Weekend, Aug. 26-27 after all Masses, East Avenue entrance.
- All Classes begin the week of Sept. 10
- 2018 Confirmation Info Meeting, Sun. Sept. 10 @ 3:15 pm, Pine Room (7th graders/parents)

Ascension RE has wonderful catechists, two strong curriculums: Traditional Religious Education (TRE) and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) and many beloved traditions. We are also open to guidance from the Holy Spirit, who inspires us to develop new ways to encounter and know God.

One of this year's inspired ideas came from a couple who was seeking a way for their family to grow in faith together. The board and I liked the idea and decided to develop an RE program we are calling **Family Faith Formation (FFF)**. The families who choose FFF program would commit to attending monthly family gatherings on the second Thursday of the month. The meeting will have prayer, singing, and family faith-building activities. Then the families will choose to do home study of the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies or your child can continue with his or her CGS or TRE classes. This pilot year we are **seeking ten families** willing to help give shape to this new program. An information meeting will be held on **August 10 @ 7:30 pm in the Pine Room**.

As Catholics, we develop our relationship with God by being a part of a community of believers. Developing friendship outside of church means friends inside church. Building a community is one of the main objectives of our RE Board. Three years ago the RE Board organized the first **Casino Night** for parents, and this year we have scheduled a **family movie night**, an **Advent wreath-making party** and a **family bowling night**. These community-building events need a few creative and organized parents to bring them to life and build them into strong traditions. If you enjoy organizing social events please sign-up to be part of the new "**RE Social Committee**" on the parent volunteer form.

Thank you for making Ascension RE a vital and visible expression of our Catholic faith in Jesus Christ.

Please return the registration forms to the RE Office or at Mass the weekend of August 26-27. **Please note the registration deadline for current CGS families who want their children in CGS this school year is August 16, 2017.**

May your summer be filled with joy and blessings.

Sincerely,

Diane Moriarty, DRE

REGISTRATION

Registration, Emergency/Photo Release and Volunteer Forms are included in this mailing, **and are now also available online** at www.ascensionoakpark.com. To find the forms online, click on the purple Religious Education tab at the top of the home page, click on Registration, click on each of the forms, save them to your computer ***before you fill them out***, fill out the saved forms, print and return with payment. Please do not return via email or fax as we need payment with each registration.

Timely registration enables us to prepare our class lists and determine our need for additional catechists. **Mail or drop off registration forms to: Ascension RE Office, 808 S. East Ave, Oak Park, IL 60304**

- **New Children:** If your child is 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.**
- **CGS Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, August 16 – for current CGS students. We will make available any openings for these sessions on August 17 to accommodate new students.
- **Registration Weekend:** August 26 and 27 – after All Masses, East Ave. entrance of Church
- **All Registrations Due: Thursday, August 31 to avoid a \$30 late registration fee**

2017-2018 TUITION RATES

Parishioners

1 child \$245.00 (3 payments of \$82.00)
2 children \$415.00 (3 payments of \$138.50)
3 or more children \$585.00 (3 payments of \$195.00)

Non-Parishioners -

additional \$90 per family

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Full payment of tuition and fees is appreciated at the time of registration. If this is not possible, 1/3 of the total is due at registration. If, for any reason, you cannot pay the required tuition, contact the Religious Education Office at 708-848-3099. We have a tuition assistance program.

Our parish is old, beautiful and vibrant. We need your ongoing fanatical support to keep everything running. Please help us stay a vital parish by:

- * paying in full the Religious Education tuition and fees
- * contributing weekly to the Sunday collection

TEACHING BOUNDARIES AND SAFETY GUIDE

Ascension Parish is committed to the protection of our youth. We require safe environment training compliance for all those who work with and minister to our children and youth. We believe you will find the enclosed information helpful in talking to your children about safety issues. We are enclosing a parent guide, "Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide" for your use at home. Also enclosed are some rules for the internet from the online safety curriculum which you may also find helpful.

SACRAMENTAL PREPERATION

First Communion:

- Each child is required to participate in RE classes for a year before beginning preparation for First Eucharist. Therefore if you would like your child to receive the sacrament of Eucharist in May of second grade, he or she will need to begin attending classes in first grade.
- Besides attending class weekly, you and your child will participate in a year of formation and preparation culminating in the celebration of his or her First Communion in May.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a gift of healing to which Jesus calls us to so nothing is holding us back from experiencing union with Christ through Eucharist. Your child will participate in a Reconciliation Service as part of his or her preparation for First Communion.

Reconciliation:

- In 4th grade, children will deepen their understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation through a six week formation program and will celebrate this wonderful sacrament of healing and reconnection with our God. There will be an inscription service in January and the option of two Reconciliation Services in March.

Confirmation:

- Your child must be in RE the year prior to beginning the Confirmation program. If your child attended RE or Ascension School in 6th grade, he/she can begin their confirmation preparation in their 7th grade year. If not, confirmation preparation can begin in his/her 8th grade year.
- Beginning in September of the year your child is eligible, Confirmation preparation will begin with an information meeting on Sunday, September 10 at 3:15 pm to be attended by the student and a parent. It is a year-long preparation that includes special lessons, homework, service, and retreats.
- Confirmation is celebrated in October of the following year, but classes and activities continue until the end of the school year. The church calls this time Mystagogy. It is the time when the newly Confirmed learn to apply faith to their daily lives. To be confirmed, the child must be registered for Religious Education classes in both 7th and 8th grade.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Upcoming Sacramental Preparation Dates –

September 10, 2017 – 2018 Confirmation Information Meeting (parent/child) – 3:15 to 5 pm, Pine Room

September 24, 2017 – 2018 Confirmation Inscription Service (parent or sponsor/child) 3:15 to 6 pm,
Pine Room followed by 5 pm Mass (Church)

September 28, 2017 – First Eucharist Information Meeting (1st time parents) – 7 to 8:30 pm, Pine Room

October 3, 2017 – First Eucharist Enrollment Service (parent/child) – 7:00 to 8:00 pm, Church

January 9, 2018 – 4th grade Reconciliation Inscription Service (parent/child) – 6:45 pm, Church

LETTERS WITH ALL SACRAMENT PREPARATION DATES WILL BE SENT TO FAMILIES

CLASS INFORMATION FOR 2017-2018

- Traditional Religious Education (TRE) Classes meet in the School Building, 601 Van Buren St.
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) meet in the Parish Center, 808 S. East Avenue
- Family Faith Formation (FFF) meet in the Pine Room, in the School Building

A full schedule for Sunday, Tuesday or Wednesday will be sent home with your child on the first day of class.

Sunday Morning Classes begin on September 10, 10:05-11:00 am

Class assignments for the Catechesis of Good Shepherd program and the Text-based Program will be emailed to all parents during the week of September 4 and will also be posted in the entryway to the Parish Center (CGS) and the School on the day of classes. Students will report to their rooms for a full session.

Tuesday Evening Classes begin on September 12 at 6:45-8:00 pm

Class assignments will be emailed to all parents during the week of September 4 and will also be posted in the entryway to the Parish Center (CGS) and the School. Children will report to their room at 6:45 pm for an evening of class.

Wednesday Afternoon Classes begin on September 13 at 3:45 to 5:00 pm*.

Class assignments will be emailed to all parents during the week of September 4 and will also be posted in the entryway to the Parish Center (CGS).

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 (PK-4, KDG) in the Parish Center Chapel, Level II (1st, 2nd and 3rd grade) in the Parish Center Lower Level and Level III (4th, 5th and 6th grade) in the Parish Center Dining Room.

*Level III will meet from 3:45 to 5:45 pm every other week. Your child will be assigned to Group A or Group B.

FFF begins on September 14 at 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Family Faith Formation is a program that is being designed to build faith, traditions, and community through monthly family gatherings and home study of the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies curriculum. The child would also participate in the parish sacramental preparation programs. An introduction to the program will be held on Thursday, August 10 at 7:30 in the Pine Room.