

SAINT AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

5976 Old Washington Road, Elkridge, Maryland 21075
Phone: 410-796-1520

Religious Education Office

410-796-8150 or cathy@staugustinechurch.org

"God Loves Each One of Us, As If There Were Only One of Us" St. Augustine

April 1, 2009

Dear Parents,



Our 2008-09 Religious Education Program is quickly moving to a close and our thoughts and plans are already beginning to look ahead to September. In light of that, we would like to give you the opportunity to register your children for the 2009-10 Religious Education Program at this time. If you register your children now, you can already cross one item off your July-August to-do list and take advantage of the same tuition rate as 2008-09!

With this letter you will find our registration form. Our program for kindergarten through fifth grade meets on Tuesdays from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. The ongoing education and formation of your children in the Catholic faith is important to both you and us and we value our partnership with you in this.

As you complete the registration form, please provide all the requested information or note "n/a" where appropriate. Because this information is used for mailings and to contact you via phone and email, we ask that you print all information legibly. *If during the year, there is a change in any of your contact information, we ask that you notify our office so that we can update our records.* Information regarding allergies, learning challenges, or other special needs are very important to share with us so that the catechist team can best serve your child. Children may only be registered or re-registered by the custodial parent. If you are transferring from another parish, please request a letter from that parish's Religious Education Program indicating that your child attended their program in good standing and include it with your registration form. As the Religious Education Program is a service provided to the families who are members of our parish, we ask that you complete a parish registration form if you are not currently a parishioner. This can easily be done on our parish website, www.staugustinechurch.org.

As sacraments are an integral component of your child's faith formation, an accurate record of these is important. First time registrants must include a copy of the child's baptismal certificate **if they were not baptized at St. Augustine's**. If your child has already received the sacraments of First Reconciliation (aka First Penance or confession) and/or First Eucharist or Communion at a parish other than St. Augustine's, please include the dates, name of parish, and location on the registration form. This information can be found on the certificate they received at that time.

Sacramental Preparation Guidelines

- *Preparation for First Reconciliation will begin in the fall with First Eucharist preparation following it beginning in January.*
- *Children who are in the 2nd grade or higher and have completed at least one full year of faith formation in a Catholic school or Religious Education Program are invited to preparation for the sacraments*

REV. GERARD J. BOWEN
Pastor

MS. DOTTIE NEUBAUER
Administrative Assistant

MRS. DIANE HODGES
Parish Secretary

MRS. DONNA PECORARO
Church Secretary

MRS. PATRICIA SCHRATZ
Principal

MS. BARBARA BOWLES
Assistant to the Principal

MRS. MARY JANE THOMAS
Dir. Adult Faith Formation/RCIA/
Bereavement Ministry

MRS. CATHY CARLIN
Coordinator- Religious Education

MR. MARTIN LINK
Coordinator- Youth Ministry

MRS. KIM BROWN
Administrative Assistant/
Religious Education

MR. PAUL LAVIN
Dir. Music Ministry

MRS JANET FRANCHY
School Secretary

MRS. CHERYL MARC
School Secretary

MR. DAVID KORDING
Plant Manager

- *Children are prepared for the sacraments in the parish where their family normally worships. Families, who are not registered in St. Augustine Parish but wish to have their children prepare for the sacraments at St. Augustine, are required to obtain a letter of permission from their pastor, regardless of where they are presently registered.*
- *As sacrament preparation is a free-standing program outside of REP or the parish school, parents and children are expected to participate in all phases of our sacramental programs – parent meetings; enrollment Masses; completion of preparation books; retreats, and parish celebrations of the sacraments.*

If you have a child of catechetical age (ages 6 and up) who is not baptized or if you have children in grades two through five who have not had previous religious instruction and you would like to renew your commitment to the Church but are not sure how to go about it, please call the Religious Education Office. Our “Sacraments Plus” program which is held at the same time as elementary religious education will provide them with the necessary one year of instruction prior to reception into sacrament preparation.

As in past years we will be offering the Family Life Program as part of our curriculum. This is required by the Archdiocese of Baltimore as a means to assist parents in presenting to their children the topics of human sexuality and the teachings of the Church related to it. A parent meeting regarding the Family Life Program will be offered in the fall. We encourage you to attend this meeting in order to gain a fuller understanding of the program and how we can work with you in the presentation of these important but delicate topics to your children.

Religious Education tuition fees vary according to the number of children being registered, date of registration, and program for which you are registering. Registration fee is to be paid at time of registration. **No child is ever denied religious education for financial difficulties.** Tuition assistance is available if for some reason you are unable to pay some or all of your tuition. Call the Religious Education Office to request a Tuition Assistance Form.

April 1-30: \$60 for 1 child; \$120 for 2 children; \$145/3 or more children in Kindergarten- 5th grades

May 1 to July 31: \$70 for 1 child; \$140 for 2 children \$165 for 3 or more children in Kindergarten – 5th grades

August 1 onward: \$80 for 1 child, \$160 for 2 children, \$185 for 3 or more children in Kindergarten – 5th grades

(PLEASE NOTE: Payment for Junior/Senior High Registration is SEPARATE from Elementary Registration. Contact the Youth Ministry Office, 410-796-2720, for further information. Sacramental Fees are also paid separately where applicable.)

Thank you in advance for registering your children in St. Augustine’s Religious Education Program. We look forward to assisting you in the faith formation of your children. We are here to serve you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Count on our prayers for you and your family every day. Be sure to rest, pray, work, and play every day this summer!

Yours in Christ,

Mary Jane Thomas
Director of Faith Formation Ministries

Cathy Carlin
Coordinator of Religious Education