

*“Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of (your) faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

Dear Family Faith Connection Families:

*1 Peter 1:8-9*

Recently the Archdiocese of Chicago published an updated Religion Curriculum. The Curriculum engages the student in hearing and understanding the proclamation of the faith and invites the student to respond through deeper openness to a relationship with God. This relationship is expressed in active participation in the life of the Church as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The following are some expectations of both child and catechist which are stated in the curriculum. In future Connection issues we will be exploring components of the curriculum and some expectations of families. I am sure you can also draw some of your own conclusions as to what might be expected of parents. Certainly we would ask nothing of our children that we aren't already doing ourselves. Enjoy journeying in faith with your children. The Holy Spirit is guiding us!

Thibeau, DRE

Regina

## Expectations for Effective Catechesis

### All Students will:

- ◆ Learn through active participation in the learning environment.
- ◆ Collaborate with teachers and peers.
- ◆ Apply what they learn to daily life.
- ◆ Come to know how Jesus is central to their lives and to learn to love him.
- ◆ Make good moral choices.
- ◆ Participate in the life of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ Understand the application of Catholic social teaching to current events.
- ◆ Understand that they are loved by God, created for union with God.
- ◆ Show spiritual growth through prayer, sacramental participation, maturing understanding of Christian discipleship and stewardship.
- ◆ Respect and appreciate the cultural and religious heritage of all people no matter the race, ethnicity or religious identity of the person.



- ◆ Exhibit understanding of their relationship with the Triune God and their ultimate destiny with their Creator.

### All Catechists will:

- ◆ Meet the diverse needs of students through a variety of teaching methods and strategies that will help students learn.
- ◆ Utilize a variety of resources and assessments in order to help the student learn optimally.
- ◆ Use technology and other appropriate instruments that enhance the learning process.
- ◆ Be fully informed of the catechetical content.
- ◆ Inform and involve parents in the catechesis of their children through understanding of the curriculum, assessment and reporting.
- ◆ Pursue initial and ongoing certification as catechists in the Archdiocese of Chicago.
- ◆ Participate fully in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.
- ◆ Attend to their own spiritual lives through reflection, prayer and reading of scriptures.



A social service organization for all parish 6th, 7th, & 8th graders.

### SERVICE WITH A SMILE SERVICE PROJECTS

#### **Jr. High Service Event**

**Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored by St. Joseph Parish's Youth Ministry**

Fill and Decorate  
Christmas Stockings  
for Children at  
Catholic Charities



Frost Christmas  
Cookies for the  
homeless at P.A.D.S.



Make Christmas  
Crafts for  
people at  
Winchester  
House



#### **COSMIC BOWLING**

**On Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, Time to be determined**

**Sponsored by St. Joseph Parish's Youth Ministry**

Questions about L.I.F.T. or Youth Ministry?

Contact Alison Mogge, Director of Youth Ministry at (847) 990-1235.



### **Pennies from Heaven**

I hope you are all settling into the routine of the school year and enjoying the beautiful colors we have here in the fall. By now you should have seen the little plastic bags that are attached to your child's Religious Ed folder and from the response to our first weeks donations, you have! Even with these tough times I'm glad to see our families are so strong in the spirit of giving.

Your child should have seen a short video presentation on the school we are now donating to: *The Academy of Our Lady in Waukegan*. While these children are happy, confident, and full of smiles their school does have needs for essentials and extras that we are blessed to have on a regular basis. With our donations from last year we have been able to buy the assignment notebooks that they will be using this year.

Thank you for starting off this year so strong. Enjoy the beauty of fall.

—JoAnne Coughlin,

***Pennies from Heaven Chairperson***

### ***H1N1 Guidelines Stay Healthy:***

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue.
- Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing. Use soap and water or an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Stay at home if you are sick.
- If you have a fever, stay home for at least 24 hrs after that fever has ended.

# Upcoming Events



## 7TH GRADE COMMITMENT CEREMONY

November 7, 5:00PM Mass and  
November 8, 9:00AM & 10:45 AM Masses

7th graders and their parents will attend one of these masses where they will recite a special prayer of commitment and then receive a blessing from the parish community.

7th graders will also sign their names in the Commitment book that week during their Religious Ed sessions.



## 5TH GRADE CHURCH TOUR

November 8 2:00-3:15PM

5th graders will meet shortly after 12:30 Mass for a wonderful tour of St. Joseph's beautiful church! Learn some fascinating facts about our Catholic traditions and celebrations. Parents are welcome to join the tour; *Faith Weaving* families, too.

This tour should be attended in place of Traditional Religious Ed. sessions on November 8 and 10. Students should sit with their class. Catechists will take attendance as students arrive.



## RECONCILIATION

### PARENT MEETING

Parents of 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th graders  
November 9, 7:00-8:30PM, Koenig Center

This evening is designed for families with children who have not yet celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation. The presentation is for adults only to understand the sacrament and how to prepare their children. **If you have attended this meeting before, you don't need to come again.**

### FAMILY SERVICES

November 14, 1:00 4th & 5th graders  
January 16, 1:00 2nd & 3rd graders  
February 27, 1:00 2nd & 3rd graders

These are prayer services in the church designed for families to attend together. There will be prayer, scripture reading, reflection, examination of conscience and an opportunity for those who wish to celebrate the sacrament individually.

## 8TH GRADE RETREAT

December 13, 2009 or  
January 10, 2010  
1:00-5:00PM  
Koenig Center

All 8th graders preparing for Confirmation must attend a retreat. Your child was assigned one of these two dates which is printed on the red cover of your **Family Confirmation Packet**. Please call your catechist or the Religious Ed. office with any further



## AN EVENING WITH SANTA A SEASON WITH JESUS

December 5, 6:00-9:00PM  
Koenig Center

Families with Kindergarten through 4th graders will enjoy this delightful event! See the flyer on Page 5 for more information.



# Program Highlights



4th graders received their Bibles in a blessing ceremony with their catechists and parents who were able to attend. They then spent some time learning how to look up passages. Parents of 4th graders in *Faith Weaving* personally presented the Bible to their child and then blessed them



Faith Weaving families started the year with a session themed "Rooting your Family in Faith: Ritual Matters". Families are seen here working together on an activity making roots to represent their family.



## THANK YOU!

Rain or shine the Religious Ed dedicated volunteers show up to help out! Shown here is a portion of the team it takes to produce this newsletter. Many more volunteers come to the office regularly for the hundreds of projects it takes to run this program. We couldn't do it without them!



*A Family Christmas Event...*

**“An Evening with Santa: A Season with Jesus”**

Begin this Advent season with a special family event for your Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children sponsored by the *Family Faith Connection*.

Join us for pizza, Christmas carols, and a skit by 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the Koenig Center at **6pm on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**. The skit is based on the book A Special Place for Santa. In the story, Santa finds himself criticized by people who felt he was taking the focus away from Jesus. Santa felt he had been doing the right thing by making others happy and bringing them gifts. Heartbroken, he turns to God in prayer. Come on **December 5<sup>th</sup>** to hear God’s answer.

The skit will be followed by fun activities for the children. There may even be an opportunity for a picture with Santa! Mark your calendars now for this joyous welcome to the Advent Season. For more information, contact *Dorie Sanderson* at 847-549-0743

**Please return** this completed order form and money to your child’s Catechist or mail to the St. Joseph Religious Education Office, 130 Hurlburt Court, by **December 1<sup>st</sup>** to make your reservation. You can make your checks payable to *St. Joseph*.

*We will also be accepting donations for the Lake County Aid for Women; Formula, diapers, wipes, baby clothing and blankets are needed most.*

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Number of Pizza Slices \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Cans of Soda \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$0.50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_



**Thank You**

*from Sharon Mullins  
Welcome Coffee  
Coordinator*



The Welcome Coffees on September 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> were a great success! The coffees for parents of Kindergarten through 2nd grade students, gave the parents a chance to meet each other and their child’s catechist while enjoying refreshments. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this event a success: Suzi Brennan, Margaret Fields, Christine Frega, Patty Lemberger, Christina and Linclon Lounsbury, Jose and Norma Mendoza, Alison Petzilka, Charisse Quigley, Sara VanderBloomer, and Barbara Whalen. Also, thanks to all of the “Make and Bake Committee” members, who generously baked almost 2,000 yummy cookies for us!



**All current 8<sup>th</sup> graders, in both public and parochial schools, are invited to join the St. Joseph Parish High School Choir!**

Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings (about twice a month) and we sing mostly on Saturdays at 5pm and occasionally on Sundays at 12:30. For more information, please contact Clare Marvin, Director of Music: 847-990-1224, [cmarvin@stjoseph-libertyville.org](mailto:cmarvin@stjoseph-libertyville.org)