

# **ST. ALOYSIUS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**2009-2010**

We are excited to welcome you and your children to religious education. Classes begin the week of September 20. Enclosed is our calendar which will give you the dates and times classes are held.

This year we have instituted a Sunday Pilot Program and eliminated the need for Tuesday evening classes. Parish renovations have been completed and so, this is a good time to bring to your attention the policies and procedures of the Religious Education Department.

## **BEHAVIOR/CONDUCT**

We seek to provide an environment that allows children to learn, experience, and grow as members of our faith community. A partnership between parents and catechists is necessary to achieve this goal. Children are expected to be courteous to other children and respectful of all adults. The Catechist in the classroom will set the rules of behavior: for example, raise your hand to speak, no name-calling, etc. The catechists, supported by the Religious Ed staff, will discuss the consequences of inappropriate behavior with the children in general terms. At all times, catechists will attempt to administer discipline with dignity for the child. However, in order to control behavior that is causing a constant disruption to the class, it may be necessary for the catechist or a member of the staff to contact you. To maintain an atmosphere where learning can take place, parents may be required to accompany their child to class.

At this time we ask for your courtesy and cooperation in being prompt in dropping off and picking up your child. Often our volunteer catechists need to depart at 5 p.m. to bring their children to an appointment or activity. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

## **SAFETY/ HEALTH**

Your child's safety is of paramount importance to us. All of our catechists have been background checked and attended the "Protecting God's Children" program required by the diocese.

We require that you bring your children to the classroom and pick them up. Children will not be dismissed to find you in the parking lot or in the building. Please fill out the enclosed pink authorization form, indicating all persons who may pick up your child: grandparents, carpooling friends, etc. Bring the completed form with you the first day of class and hand it to your child's catechist. Please advise the Religious Ed Office directly of any court orders or divorce and family situations that require particular attention. Be assured of our confidentiality in all personal matters.

We are aware that many 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are "walkers". Please let us know that by signing the authorization on the pink sheet.

Please be advised that we do not have a nurse on premises. Any medication your child needs to take should be administered prior to coming to class. The Religious Education staff and catechists will not maintain, supervise the taking of, or administer any medication.

Parents are reminded that there is no staff supervision on the playground, either before or after class. You are solely responsible for your child's safety when using the playground.

St. Aloysius is a peanut-free school. Because of various allergies, we will not provide any snacks or drinks ... and we ask that children not bring food to class.

Please be sure all your contact information is up to date, and notify the office of any changes that may occur throughout the year.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Religious Ed program utilizes a combination of the RCL Faith First and Sadlier We Believe series. All grades build upon one another so that children learn, review and live out the Scripture, doctrine and tradition of our faith. Each level has a particular focus and students are expected to know the prayers at the grade level indicated:

- Grade 1        An introduction to the Trinity and to knowing, loving and serving God, who is Creator. *Sign of the Cross, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*
- Grade 2        An emphasis on the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. *Grade One Prayers and Act of Contrition.*
- Grade 3        The history, structure and traditions of the Catholic Church as the community of Jesus are emphasized. *Grade Two Prayers and Apostles Creed.*
- Grade 4        The focus is the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. *Grade Three Prayers, and the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes.*
- Grade 5        The seven sacraments, prayer, and vocations are emphasized. All of the above prayers should be learned by this grade level.
- Grade 6        Focus on salvation history as described in Sacred Scripture and our place in it.
- Grade 7 & Grade 8        Confirmation Preparation

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is taught at each grade level. All students participate in praying the Rosary during the year.

### FINALLY ... AND MOST IMPORTANTLY ...

We provide one-hour of instruction time, one day a week. With 26 scheduled classes (and snow days do happen) it adds up to approximately ONE FULL DAY of religious instruction. Therefore, ATTENDANCE AT MASS EACH WEEK IS SO VERY VITAL TO YOUR CHILD IN THEIR FORMATION AS CATHOLICS. We come together as a parish community to worship, thank God, and support each other in prayer. It is at Mass that we come to know Jesus in the Eucharist. Attending Mass each week reinforces what is taught in the classroom. Without this important time to celebrate and pray together at Mass, it can be a struggle for your child ... indeed, for all of us ... to achieve a fuller understanding of the greatness of our God and the love and forgiveness of Jesus. We urge you to check our church website, [www.starcc.com](http://www.starcc.com), for the schedule of Masses.

Thank you for your cooperation and for entrusting your children to us. Please pray that our efforts this year will bring all of us closer to the Lord Jesus.

Msgr. William J. Scheyd  
Pastor

Marie Pascale  
Director

Carol Pinard  
Consultant

Annemarie Jardon  
Office Manager