

St. Christopher's Catholic Church



May 16, 2017

Dear Families,

I would like to take this time to thank you for all of your continued support and prayers for our Religious Education program here at St. Christopher's. We are so blessed to have such a thriving and growing parish. As we get ready to register for another school year, there are a few quick things I would like to go over with everyone.

If you are a new family to our Religious Education program we welcome you, and encourage you to come to one of our Family Orientation Meetings held at the beginning of the year. These meetings are a way that I can meet and welcome each of you to the new religious education school year and briefly go over important information and policies. For your convenience these Orientation Meetings are scheduled to take place during your child's class time, on the first day back. I expect these meetings to last no longer than 15-20 minutes.

Again this year, I am attaching a copy of the 2017-2018 Religious Ed calendar, before summer begins. My hope is to give you this now, so that you can plan your extracurricular activities around it. Both St. Christopher's Church and the Diocese of Wilmington require 30 hours of instructional religious education for each year. Students are expected to attend both Mass and class weekly, committing the time to learn their faith. Students must attend the class they are registered for- there will be no more switching between class times. We recognize and understand that things like illness, family vacations, or other family emergency situations may arise throughout the year. It is your responsibility to obtain and complete any missed work throughout the year if a class is missed.

If your child is absent from religious education, please make sure you contact either your child's catechist (teacher) or the Religious Ed Office. Once your child comes back to class, please stop and get whatever work or chapter that was missed from your child's catechist. This will ensure that your child is keeping up with their class, and learning the necessary material. Religious education, just like secular education, is a building process, missing too many classes' results in students not having a sufficient knowledge of the material. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that our students are well prepared at the end of the year when they advance to the next grade level. If you ever have any questions regarding your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact me. Each year all students take home their books from religious education, it is your responsibility to go through your child's book with them and complete any chapters that have not been completed.

Here at St. Christopher's we offer classes on Wednesday evenings in addition to our Sunday morning classes. For those of you not familiar with the Wednesday evening classes, they run from 6:30PM-7:45PM. Since these class times are longer than our Sunday morning option, these classes end for the year in mid-April. We will be offering this option again for next year. The Wednesday evening classes are offered for 1st through 8th grade students (includes Confirmation class), please note that there is no Kindergarten class on Wednesday evenings.

You will also notice on the registration form the last section is about volunteering. Please take a look at the different events listed and see if any of them would be of interest to you; we are always looking for new volunteers to help with the various things throughout the year. We have offered several new options this year, so please look them over and select what would most appeal to you. New this upcoming year the religious education program will be implementing a new policy for our sacramental receptions offered here at the Church. We are inviting all first grade parents to host the First Communion Reception on Saturday, May 5 at 10AM and 1PM, more information on this will be coming as we get closer to that day. Also new this year, we are inviting all seventh grade parents to host the Confirmation Reception, time and date will be announced near the end of summer and more information will follow.

Finally, below you will find a few of the important policies in place here at St. Christopher's. I ask that you read over them before completing your registration.

NEW Parking & Dismissal: We are asking all religious education families to please use the rear parking lot of the church and enter through the back hall doors. This will help with traffic flow on Sunday morning and leave parking for our senior parishioners who are going to Mass. For the safety of you and your family it is imperative that you NOT park along the street in front of the church. There is plenty of space in the rear parking lot of the church and every Sunday/Wednesday all hall doors are unlocked for your convenience. The local sheriff's office will be ticketing any cars parked along the street or on the grass outside the church.

To help make dismissal safer and assist families gathering their children in a timely manner for Mass, we will continue the policy of dismissing the children from the classroom. The classroom is a safe environment from which to dismiss students and this will provide added security for children with complex family situations. To make dismissal as smooth as possible, we ask that parents utilize the back parking lot and enter through the parish hall and pre-school doors.

Photo Opt-Out: We periodically take photos of parish events such as the Christmas Pageant, First Communions, and Sacramental Retreats etc. We may publish these photos on our eBulletin Board (Hall Entrance), on our bulletin boards in the Hall or occasionally on our website. We never print children's names with any photos. If you do not want your child's photo posted you may choose to Opt-Out on the registration form. **Your child may not be permitted to be in certain photos if you Opt-Out.**

Baptismal Certificates: If your child has never been enrolled in our program **and** was baptized at a parish other than St. Christopher's we will need a copy of their Baptismal Certificate prior to the start of classes. This applies especially to all the sacramental years (2nd & 8th grades) as well.

Late Registration & Fee: Late Registration will be held June 11th through August 15th. **Please make sure you register BEFORE June 10th to avoid paying a late fee!** During our late registration period the cost of registration will increase an additional \$50 per family.

Sacramental Fee: Anyone registering for either 2nd or 8th Grade (First Holy Communion or Confirmation) will need to pay a \$50 sacramental fee to cover the costs of the additional books, resources, retreats, and things that the sacramental classes do throughout the school year.

Payment Options: Payment is required at the time of registration. To complete **online** Registration, Faith Direct is required (you do not need a Faith Direct account for this). If you would prefer to pay by cash or check, you must register in person at the Religious Education Office. To ensure that someone is available and present to help you, please make an appointment during the week Monday-Friday to register in person.

Our ultimate goal is to make our online registration process as seamless as possible for you and your family. We will continue to make improvements and adjustments as needed going forward. If you have any questions or would like to speak to someone in the Religious Education Office please do not hesitate to e-mail (KSukley@stchristopherski.org) or call me at 410-643-8489.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Katie Sukley

Katie Sukley
Director of Religious Education

