

St. Sebastian Catholic Church  
Office of Faith Formation  
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Dear Parent/Guardian,

As all of you are winding down the school year and getting ready to enjoy a well deserved summer, we here at St. Sebastian are gearing up for our Faith Formation program that will begin in the Fall. Summer gives us the time needed to plan programs, order materials, clean classrooms and secure Catechists. BUT in order to plan adequately and appropriately, it is necessary to do **registration** now! This allows us to work within our budget and get quality materials, not guessing quantity needed.

The 2010-2011 Faith Formation year will begin in September with some changes. We will continue to offer Whole Family Catechesis (Generations of Faith), but will do so in a different format. We are mindful of the struggle families had this year, and so this will be an enrichment program and not necessarily a mandatory program.

In trying to meet the needs of our families and responsibly prepare our children for Sacraments as well as growing in knowledge and understanding of our Catholic Faith, we will be re-introducing age appropriate Faith Formation classes for ALL age levels and Sacraments.

Classes for children in grades K-5 will meet on Sunday mornings from 10:45- 11:50. **Classes for students in middle and high school (grade 6 and above including preparation for Confirmation) will take place on Sunday evening 5:30-6:30.**

Our hope is that with the morning classes, families will attend the 9:30 Mass and then kids can attend class while parents can grab a cup of coffee in LeSage Hall and spend some time with other parents who are part of our Faith community! It will allow us time to plan special prayer services etc. with the children and give us room to grow!

**Sunday evening**, gives us the flexibility to expand our programs for youth and not compete with their homework schedule, after school activities, sports and, hopefully, will help alleviate trying to juggle so many schedules and transportation issues with working parents.

Classes will be held THREE Sundays a month so as to work (to our best ability), around holidays and give families at least one Sunday a month free! We are in the process of finalizing our calendar and will post it on the website and in the bulletin as soon as it is complete.

Moving to Sunday was the BEST solution for the majority including our Catechists. More and more families don't have any "family" time during the week or on weekends, Church and God have taken a "back seat". Hopefully, this will help families re-commit time to God and make family worship and Faith community time a priority again.

As you know, to prepare our youth for Confirmation, they must successfully complete the WHOLE CONFIRMATION PREP program. At St. Sebastian this has been hard due to Confirmation being held so early in the year. MOST parishes hold Confirmation in April or May. However, the tradition here has been to celebrate Confirmation the end of January. In order to do so, we have to change our program to fit the model the Diocese uses (2 yr prep) THEREFORE, our two year prep will begin in grade 7&8 and grade 9 will be a shorter type program having ALL requirements met before Christmas and still keep Confirmation in January.... At least for this next year.

- **ALL youth entering grade 7 will begin this process. GRADE 7 will be called Pre-Confirmation and will be required.**
- Those who have SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ALL requirements for year 1 prep will go into year II prep and receive Confirmation in January 2011. PROVIDED ALL DEADLINES & REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.
- Those who did *not successfully complete all requirements* will need to remain in Confirmation prep. It does not matter what grade your child is in, it is the program requirements that dictate when Confirmation is received.
- Classes will be mixed (grade levels) depending where your child is in the preparation process if necessary until EVERYONE gets on track.
- Some youth are not ready to make the commitment to the preparation program at the age that this Diocese sets. That is okay. To say "yes" to being confirmed, one must recognize the commitment he/she is making to the Church and be ready to take on that responsibility. Some don't make it until later in life as an adult, and that is okay as well. So discuss this commitment with your son/daughter before committing to registration and fulfilling the requirements.

The cost for Faith Formation is **\$60.00 per registration if registration is received by July 1<sup>st</sup>**. This allows us to order materials and plan accordingly. This fee covers texts, classroom materials and materials for Generations of Faith. This fee **does not** cover retreat (as retreat fees vary depending on which one they attend), and does not cover the Confirmation Rental Gowns fee. **REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER JULY 1, WILL REQUIRE AN ADDITIONAL \$10.00 LATE FEE! PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES SO WE CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY.**

There is financial assistance/ partial scholarships available for those who truly cannot afford the registration fee. Please contact Sister Susan at 589-4147 if you need to request assistance requests must be made BEFORE July 1<sup>st</sup> so that it can be added to the budget. There will be partial assistance to help with retreat fees if needed as well.

Wishing everyone a peace-filled, fun-filled, lazy-day filled, safe and God filled summer!!! Blessings to you and your family. If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please call me.

Blessings,

Sister Susan Therese IHM