

Parents and Parish: Partners in Religious Education

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THE 2012 – 2013 SCHOOL YEAR

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

A **minimum of two consecutive years of religious instruction** is required in preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of First Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation. However, it is *strongly advised* that a child complete the entire program from First Grade to Eighth Grade. This is an important sign of the family's commitment to the religious education program. First Penance and First Eucharist are generally received in the **second grade** and the Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred at the conclusion of the **eighth grade** year.

Recognizing the role of the parents as the *primary religious educators* of their children, the parish Religious Education team strongly encourages **both parents** of children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Penance, and First Eucharist to attend the **required sacramental preparation meetings** during the course of the school year. The schedule for these meetings during the 2012-2013 school year is distributed to the parents in the sacramental classes. In addition, it is also important to check the monthly calendars for the most up-to-date details.

Once again this year, Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Gwertzman has agreed to coordinate the sacramental programs for the youth of our parish. She may be reached by leaving a message at the Religious Education office (718-548-6585.) ***The schedule of the sacramental programs for the 2012-2013 school year is posted on the bulletin board outside the Religious Education office.***

MONTHLY CALENDAR UPDATES

The primary way of communicating school activities is through the monthly calendar updates. These are generally distributed to all students ***on the last Sunday of each month.*** Ample copies are given to the teachers. If your child is absent, please make certain that he/she requests a copy of the monthly calendar at the next class he/she attends. A copy of the monthly calendar is always posted on the wall outside the Religious Education office.

ATTENDANCE

The new Archdiocesan regulations require a calendar of thirty (30) classes of ninety (90) minutes each. It is essential that attendance be good to enable a child's faith development to be nourished in the best possible manner. When a child is absent a call should be made to the Religious Education office at **718-548-6585**. When a child returns to class a ***note should be given to the teacher to be kept on file.***

Throughout the 2012-2013 school year I am asking the teachers to contact the parents of those children who are absent. ***Teachers will request that some type of appropriate grade level assignment be completed to show that the child has covered the missed material with his/her parents at home.*** This assignment must be signed by the parent. A suggested homework format has been provided to the teachers; however each teacher may set up his or her own requirement for absent students.

LATENESS

Classes generally begin after the 10:00 Mass. It is not fair to either the teachers or students for children to disrupt the flow of the lesson by walking in late for class. ***If a family chooses not to attend the 10:00 Mass, please have your child at the school no later than 11:00 AM.***

At times some parents have expressed concern about teachers' responses when children consistently arrive as much as a ***half-hour*** late for class. As a teacher myself, I know that my response would be no different if I saw a consistent pattern of lateness. ***When a child must be late, please send an explanatory note for our files.***

EARLY DISMISSAL

Please do not request that students be dismissed from class before the lesson has been completed except for emergency situations. Participation in extracurricular ***sporting activities*** should not interfere with the weekly lesson, time that should be given to God. ***This practice conveys to the child the idea that religious education classes are not an important priority.*** Dismissal time is at 12:30 PM.

SNACKS AFTER CLASS

Each week donuts and/or cookies are provided for the children in the hallway outside the Religious Education office. Since these treats are in limited supply, we ask that each child take only ***one item*** upon leaving class. ***Under no circumstances should any child enter the Religious Education office for the purpose of obtaining refreshments.*** The refreshments in the office are there for our ***volunteer teaching staff and other adult guests (parents).***

REGISTRATION

Re-registration for the 2013 – 2014 school year will take place on March 3, March 10, and March 17, 2013. To avoid the twenty-five dollar (\$25) late re-registration fee, it is important that families complete the re-registration process on one of the three March Sunday dates. ***Late re-registration*** and all ***new registrations*** will be taken in September 2013. Registration forms and money must be given directly to the Director of Religious Education by the parents. ***No forms or money are to be given to the teachers!*** All checks should be made payable to **CHURCH OF ST. GABRIEL.**

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

To be certain that parents can receive emergency alert messages, it is very important that our records have the most up-to-date ***phone numbers*** and ***e-mail addresses.***