

July 12, 2010

Dear Parents,

As the 2010-2011 school year approaches, I am beginning to gear up for the new Religious Education school year. This will be my second year as the DRE. I am looking forward to continuing this service. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to direct this important phase of your child's life.

If you are new to Religious Ed at St. James, please pick up your registration packet in the church office or download the forms and return it to the church office. If you are a returning student, please complete the re-registration form for the 2010-2011 school year that was sent home with your child in May. In addition please take the time to complete the evaluation form. The teachers and I are very interested in making improvements in this program so we value the information you will give us on the evaluation forms. It is my hope to be able to communicate with all of you through email. Of course, those who have not yet jumped onto the information highway will get their messages through the mail or through your children. In case your re-registration information has been lost, you can get another on the St. James website. All registration forms are due by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

One of my big concerns is attendance. Many times our focus is on education and after-school activities like sports, music, and dance. That places religious education on the back burner. It is so easy to do in this fast paced world in which we live. I have found that when I put God first, my life runs so much more smoothly with fewer bumps in the road. Please make an effort to get your children to CCD class. We, at St. James, know that your child's religion comes from you and we only supplement you. Diocese policy states that the children have 30 hours of instruction. It is imperative that your child miss as little as possible. If you need help doing this, please contact me and I will try to work out an arrangement with other parents to carpool your child to class.

At the present time Religious Ed is in need of energetic teachers for the fourth and sixth grades as well as teaching assistants for kindergarten, third, fourth, and sixth grades. High school students could get community service hours while teaching our faith to younger members of the church. With the Holy Spirit as your guide you will find the teaching of our Catholic faith to be a rewarding experience.

I am looking forward to a year of spiritual growth and fun. If your child has missed his\her sacraments, please contact me as soon as possible. Please note the Sacramental Policy at St. James: Before a child receives any of the sacraments (Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation), he or she must attend religious education class the year prior to the sacramental program. This is very important to ensure that children are well prepared and eligible to receive the sacraments.

God bless each and every one of you and may your spiritual growth this year refresh and renew you.

Sincerely,  
Mary Speir (665-1554)  
Director of Religious Education (DRE)  
2010 - 2011

