



Sacred Heart Religious Education

260 High Street - Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Phone: 609-267-6319 Email: rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org

June 19, 2017

Dear Religious Education families,

Welcome to the beginning of our 2017-2018 Religious Education year! Here is what everyone needs to know about our upcoming summer sessions–

- ✠ **Summer Schedule:** The program runs from July 17th through July 28th from 8:00 am until 11:00 am daily. The school-year monthly class schedule will be communicated to you when we are here for the summer sessions. *Just a reminder that those classes will be held on Mondays for this year.* We will attend Mass at 8:30 from Tuesday through Friday of both weeks; family members are welcomed to come join us! Children in the Summer Program must attend class each day.
- ✠ **Volunteers:** We are still looking for volunteers for the Summer Program. We especially need catechists for certain grades so that we will be able to accommodate our anticipated class sizes. Please see the enclosed sheet for more information, including discounted tuition rates for volunteers. (If you would like to volunteer but already paid tuition, you will be reimbursed accordingly.)
- ✠ **Re-Registration for returning students:** All families should have received a mailing in April with re-registration information. **If you have not submitted a form for you child, please do so immediately; forms and tuition were due June 1st.** The tuition rate for non-volunteers is \$90 for children in grades 1st through 7th, and \$100 for children in 8th grade (the additional \$10 helps to partially offset costs associated with preparation for the sacrament and the sacramental celebration itself). Forms can be found in the front vestibule of the church and online here: <https://parishofsacredheart.org/summer-program>
- ✠ **2017-2018 Summer Program Commitment form:** This form is enclosed here (one per family). This must be returned on the first day of class. (You may also drop off or mail the form to the Religious Education Office at the address above in advance if you prefer.)
- ✠ **Classroom Assignments:** Classroom assignments will be sent to you via Honeywell alert the week before we begin. To set up or update your Honeywell account, please go to this link and follow the prompts: <https://instantalert.honeywell.com/InstantAlert/Login.aspx> If you encounter any issues, contact us in the office and we will be able to help you. *Please note that, unlike prior years, the class section to which your child is assigned will not have any impact on his/her class schedule for the Monday classes, as all Summer Program students are attending class together on the same Monday each month.
- ✠ **Classroom Behavior:** Classroom behavior is always important no matter what the context, but it is especially important when our class time is longer and more condensed than the traditional Religious Education class. Please be sure to speak with your child regarding the importance of good

classroom behavior before we begin. In situations where behavior presents an issue for the child, catechist or overall class, parental involvement in resolving the issue will be required.

- ✠ **For 7th and 8th Graders:** Bibles are distributed in 6th grade, and our 7th and 8th graders need to bring their Bibles to class with them to class. If for some reason you need to replace a Bible, please let us know (there will be a replacement fee). Alternately you may purchase a replacement Bible yourself. If you purchase a replacement yourself, please check the Summer Program page on our web site for specific information, as there is a particular edition you will need to get.
- ✠ **Arrival/Dismissal:** Children in grades 1st through 8th should be brought to their class's table in the auditorium in the morning where they will meet their catechists. Pick up for all grades will be in the auditorium as well. *If someone other than a child's own parent is picking him/her up, we will need something in writing sent in advance.
- ✠ **Dress:** Children must be properly dressed for class/Mass, i.e., appropriate clothing which does not expose the midriff area, shorts and dresses/skirts which are the appropriate length, and no shirts with messages that are contrary to our Catholic faith. For safety reasons, children cannot wear flip flops. If a child comes to class wearing flip flops, we will need to call the parent and ask that appropriate shoes be brought. The same holds true for any inappropriate dress.
- ✠ **Electronic Devices:** Children cannot bring electronic devices of any kind to class. The exception is cell phones, which, if brought, must be turned off or given to the catechist during class. Please note that phones will be taken and given to the parent at the end of the session if this rule is disregarded.
- ✠ **Snack and Drink:** Children should bring a snack and drink each day, preferably in a completely disposable container. Please do not send in food to share, as we have several children with severe food allergies in our program.
- ✠ **Family Handbook:** Our Family Handbook for 2017-2018 is available on the parish web site under the 'Religious Education' tab. We will also have hard copies available; if you would like a hard copy handbook, please let us know.
- ✠ **Food and School Supply Drive for St. Vincent DePaul:** As we have done in previous years, we will have special drives for SVDP during the summer session – **please note that contributing to the drives is not mandatory.** If you can and would like to contribute, we have enclosed a list of needed items here.

I hope that the information here is helpful to you, whether you are new to the program or a returning family. If you have any questions or need more information, please call or email us any time. On behalf of Father John, Mrs. Raimondi, our catechists, aides, volunteers and parish staff, we very much look forward to seeing you and your family during our two weeks in July! God bless you and I hope that your summer has been, and continues to be, peaceful and relaxing (and fun)!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mrs. Jessica Donohue
Director of Religious Education

| Saint Vincent DePaul Food & School Supply Drives | |
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| *Participation is completely voluntary - If you would like to contribute, here is what is most needed* | |
| 1st Week - Food Drive: The summer months tend to be most challenging with regard to donations of food, so anything you can donate is very much appreciated!  The pantry is particularly in need of tuna, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, pasta, and cereal. | 2nd Week - Food and School Supplies: School supplies that are most needed are book bags (these are especially needed), pencils, pens, loose leaf paper, spiral bound notebooks, folders, composition books, rulers, crayons, colored pencils, glue, and pencil boxes.  Food donations continue 2nd week. |

Volunteer Information - Summer Program 2017-2018

We are looking for people to volunteer in the following capacities for this year:

Catechists (classroom teachers) – We are still in need of a couple of catechists for the summer in order to accommodate our class sizes. Catechists are the main classroom teachers, and follow a teaching schedule that corresponds to the textbook and teaching manual. *In some cases, two catechists may decide to “team teach,” i.e. share responsibilities for teaching the class in whichever way works best for them and the students.

Aides – Assistants to the catechist who help out in the classroom in various ways, depending on classroom needs.

Hall Monitors – Our hall monitors help by being present in the school, auditorium or church where needed. They may occasionally help out with office work, depending upon needs of the program.

Tuition rates for volunteers are as follows:

Catechists – Tuition is waived for all children of catechists.
(Catechists who have already paid tuition will be reimbursed.)

Catechist Aides – Tuition is \$25 for each child.

Hall Monitor – Tuition is \$50 for each child.

*While we have been continuously looking for new volunteers for the Summer Program within the parish, traditionally our Religious Education parents have formed the core of our volunteers, and so we are reaching out especially to our parents as we are planning for the start of classes.

Aside from the tuition benefits, being involved with your child's Religious Education is rewarding in and of itself, and many of our volunteers find that they also learn more about their faith along with the children. **You do not need to be a teacher or an “expert” in Catholicism to volunteer with us!** Courses are offered both in the parish and online through the Diocese that help volunteers to learn more about our faith and different aspects of Religious Education.

If you are interested in joining our wonderful group of volunteers, please contact us in the office at 609-267-6319, ext. 307 or email jdonohue@parishofsacredheart.org for additional information and details.

Thank you for your consideration! ☺

Family Last Name: _____

Sacred Heart Religious Education

Agreement/Commitment to 2017-2018 Summer Program – July 18-29, 8 am – 11 am (Monday class schedule to be distributed the first day of summer session)

Due Monday, July 17th (or you may submit to the office in advance through the parish house or via mail)

*Please make a copy of this form for your reference, or you may access it online at <https://parishofsacredheart.org/summer-program>.

- I understand that daily attendance and being on time each morning are both necessary for participation in the Summer Program, and that non-compliance with this standard will necessitate my child being moved to the Fall Program.
- I understand that doctor and other appointments not of an unforeseen/emergency nature, any other activities, camps and events or forgetting the class schedule do not constitute valid reasons for an absence and will not be excused or considered as an advance request. I understand that if there is an unforeseen and unavoidable circumstance which hinders my child from attending class or being on time, I must contact the Office of Religious Education as soon as possible.
- I understand that monthly sessions are an integral part of successfully completing the 2017-2018 Religious Education year, and that attendance will be reviewed at the end of the Religious Education year to determine eligibility for Summer Program re-registration for 2018-2019.
- I have read the 2017-2018 Religious Education Family Handbook, and understand that compliance with policies and procedures in the handbook is required for participation in the Sacred Heart Religious Education program.

Child/Children's Names

Parent(s) Name(s) (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____