

# Sacred Heart Religious Education Newsletter

Hello Sacred Heart Families!

Welcome to our 2017-2018 Religious Education Fall Program! While I do not want to add to your pile of back-to-school paperwork (which, if it's anything like mine, is in a big "to-do" pile in your kitchen that you throw in a cabinet when company comes over), I did want to let you know about some great things we have coming up here this year at Sacred Heart!

Before I get into that though, I want to address the issue of volunteers., because they are really and truly the people who make our program possible. One of the main concerns—if not *the* most pressing concern—of people in my position is having enough volunteers to be able to offer our children a rich and meaningful catechetical and faith formation experience. **Aside from me and Mrs. Raimondi, literally everyone else who is involved with our Religious Education program is a volunteer.** It is not unusual for DREs to still have to look for catechists right before classes start, which can be a little nerve-wracking! So I was very happy and grateful to find that by mid-August, we not only had all of the catechists we needed—and excellent ones at that—but that we continued to have people come forward offering to join us as aides and hall monitors. Some of our new catechists are people who were caught off-guard when I approached them to let them know I thought they would make great catechists, and I am so grateful that they not only entertained my nervy introduction, but that they happily accepted the invitation! Be on the look-out, I might be tapping your shoulder next! :)

Because we are so grateful for their sharing their time and gifts with our children, we were very happy to be able to honor our catechists this past Sunday, September 17th, which the Church has designated as 'Catechetical Sunday.' On this day, the Church in our country recognizes those who have been called to hand on the faith to others, and who have responded to that call with joy, enthusiasm, and generosity. Father John blessed our catechists at the 11:30 Mass, and then in true Sacred Heart style, we had a fun celebration! As our catechists are truly your partners in helping you to raise your child in our faith, we encourage you to support your children's catechists however you can, and we will send home some suggestions soon for how you can do that in very practical ways. We are very blessed to have a really wonderful group of people here in our Religious Education program, whom I personally so enjoy working with—catechists, aides, hall monitors, and substitutes (some of whom are also aides and hall monitors!)—and I ask that you keep them in your prayers this year as they support our program in such invaluable and vital ways, and help to guide our children in learning about, and growing in, our beautiful Catholic faith.

Some other great things happening here...

- ◇ **Youth Ministry:** Last year was the first year of our Youth Ministry program, and it was a really fantastic addition to our parish! Be sure to check out our Youth Ministry page on the parish web site at this link— <https://parishofsacredheart.org/youth-ministry> (We will also occasionally send hard copy information home, so keep an eye out for that!) Our 2nd Annual Youth Ministry Kick-Off event is this Saturday, September 23rd! Please see the web site for more info!
- ◇ **Web Site:** This is the best place to go for news and information, to download that paperwork you know you got but can't find, and to just keep up-to-date on what is happening in our program: <https://parishofsacredheart.org/fall-program>
- ◇ **'Welcome Back' Mass:** Next week (September 26th and 27th), we will have Mass in the church during class time to welcome our children and volunteers to the Religious Education year. We invite parents and family members to attend as well! Please see the first day memo for more details.

We are so glad that your family is a part of Sacred Heart and look forward to seeing you all each week. We pray that your family experiences an enrichment of faith in your lives and in your home this year, and may God abundantly bless you in the year to come!

## Sacred Heart Religious Education Office

Pastor ~ Father John Czahur

Director ~ Mrs. Jessica Donohue

Administrative Assistant/ Youth Ministry Coordinator ~ Mrs. Amy Raimondi

260 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Phone ~ 609-267-6319 Email ~ [rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org)



## Sacred Heart Church

### Schedule of Masses

#### Daily Mass:

Monday through Friday,  
7:00 am and 8:30 am  
Saturday, 8:30 am

#### Weekend Mass:

Saturday, 4:30 pm  
Sunday, 7:30 am, 9:30 am,  
11:30 am, 7:00 pm

#### Confessions:

Saturday, 3:30—4:00

### Parish Main Office Hours: (609-267-0209)

Monday through Saturday:  
9:00—5:00  
(closed 12-1 daily)

\*Monday through Friday  
the office is also open  
from 6 pm to 9 pm

Sunday:  
9:00-1:00

**\*\*Please see the  
reverse for important  
fall dates!\*\***

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## *Dates to Put on Your Calendar*

**Youth Ministry Kick-Off—Saturday, September 23rd**, attend the 4:30 Mass with a social to follow—we have a Luau theme this year! No registration, all are welcomed!

**Welcome Back Masses—Tuesday and Wednesday, September 26th and 27th.** Mass starts at 5:45 both days, and we invite and warmly welcome all our families to join us! \*Please note that children will arrive as usual for class, and will also be dismissed from the classroom at 6:45 (i.e. children will not be dismissed from the church). Please see the first day memo for more information!

**Catholic High School Fair—Thursday, September 28th at 7 pm in the Auditorium.** For those considering Catholic high school; admission representatives from all local high schools will be in attendance!

**Scholastic Book Fair ‘Family Night’ —Tuesday, October 3rd, 2:30-8:00 pm in the Library.** Sponsored by Sacred Heart School, this is always a popular book-shopping night for our school and parish families! The theme this year is ‘Wild West.’

**First Reconciliation/First Communion Parent Meeting—Monday, October 16th at 7 pm OR Tuesday, October 17th at 1 pm.** Meetings are in the church, please choose whichever is most convenient!

**Confirmation Parent Meeting—Monday, November 13th at 7 pm in the Church.** All Confirmation Candidates must attend with at least one adult.

**Parent Assembly sponsored by Sacred Heart School: “Stress Reduction Strategies for Regaining Life’s Balance” — Monday, October 2nd , 7 pm - 8:30 pm in the Auditorium.** All parents welcomed! This is a free workshop with no registration required. Please see [parishofsacredheart.org](http://parishofsacredheart.org) for the informational flyer!

**Blessing of the Animals — Saturday, October 7th after the 8:30 am Mass.** Pets of the well-behaved variety—leashed or in carriers—are welcomed!

**Altar Server Training—Monday, October 30th from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm in the church for children in grades 4th through 8th.** Sign up is required, please see [parishofsacredheart.org](http://parishofsacredheart.org) for our flyer with more information if your child would like to join this ministry!

**All Saints’ Day (Holy Day of Obligation) — Wednesday, November 1st, Masses at 7 am, 8:30 am, 12:15 pm, and 7 pm. Vigil Mass on October 31st at 5 pm.** \*Please note we do not have Religious Education classes this week.

**Parish Memorial Mass —Monday, November 7th at 7 pm.** Mass in honor of our loved ones who have passed. All are invited, and there is a reception in the Parish House following the Mass.

**Thanksgiving Day Mass—November 23rd at 9 am.** Bread blessed by Father John will be distributed at the conclusion of Mass. This is a beautiful Mass and a wonderful way to begin your family’s Thanksgiving!