

OUR LADY OF THE LAKES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTER

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Greetings!

I hope that you have had a chance to enjoy the summer. To those families who are returning to the program I am glad you are back. To the new families who are joining us, I would like to extend a warm welcome. As you begin to plan your schedules for the upcoming school year, I would like to provide you with the information you will need to be sure that Religious Education is a part of it. Below you will find all of the information that you will need to complete the enrollment process for your child/children. **Please read the entire letter for all pertinent registration information.**

This year in addition to the weekly sessions we will be offering an option of Family Catechesis for our families. This model works as follows; families will meet once a month for instruction for parents as well as students. In between the monthly meetings parents will work through the assigned chapters, bringing back homework the following month.

Preparation for all Sacraments is a two-year process. Attendance in 1st & 2nd grade catechetical sessions are required for the reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion; completion of the 7th & 8th grade catechetical sessions are required for Confirmation. For children who are coming into the Church as well as those who are in formation for Sacraments that they did not make in the typical timeframe, the preparation is also a two-year process. A 90% attendance rate for weekly classes must be maintained during each of these years in order to count them towards the two-year preparation process. Classes missed due to late registration are considered absences and are figured into the required attendance for sacrament preparation years. 100% attendance is required for the Family Catechesis sessions. Family catechesis registration will be closed after the initial **MANDATORY parent meeting which will take place on Thursday, September 27th.**


Classes for grades 1-8 as well as Sacrament Preparation classes will be offered on Monday evenings from 6:15 – 7:30. Instruction for the Sunday Family Catechesis sessions will begin with the 12:30 mass and instruction will take place from 1:30 to 3:30pm.

Our program is in great need of catechists for all grades. This ministry provides a terrific opportunity for personal growth in your faith and a chance to teach children to know, love, and serve God and spread His truth. Any Catholic who has been Confirmed and enjoys kids is qualified. Help, guidance and training is provided to equip our new catechists with the necessary tools to instruct the kids. Hall monitors, class assistants, substitutes, and an office volunteer during sessions are also needed. Please PRAYERFULLY consider joining us in this ministry.

All forms needed for registration can be found on the church's website, ollwaterford.org. Scroll down the page to the Religious Education section and from there click on the Forms and Schedules link. You will need to complete one registration form for your family and a health form for each child that you are enrolling. **Class size is limited and spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis.** You may either return them by mail to the address listed on the top of the registration form or bring it to the Religious Education Center located in the Parish Center. Please return all forms by September 7th. **Be sure to include your email address on the form. Email will be our primary vehicle of communication with you throughout the year.** The communications from our office will come from the email address ollreligiouseducation@parishmail.com. A schedule of class dates is also posted at the above website, please be sure to download it and keep it for future reference.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. You will be receiving an email from us confirming your child's class information a **couple of days** before classes begin. Weekly classes will begin on Monday, September 24th. Sunday school classes will start on September 30th.

Yours in Christ,


Artha Horowitz
Director of Religious Education