



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE PARISH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

294 Sparta Avenue
Sparta, New Jersey 07871-1104
973-729-6107

Summer, 2011

Dear Parents,

A heartfelt welcome to all of you who are new to Our Lady of the Lake Parish Religious Education Program and to all who are returning. We are looking forward to this new school year with your children as they grow in faith and knowledge of our Lord.

It is our mission to guide your children in their developing a relationship with Jesus and to encourage them to grow and mature in that relationship enabling them to answer Jesus' challenging call.

We hope to teach the children that when they leave our Religious Education Program it is not an ending, but a beginning. A beginning of a life-long journey as faith-filled and Christ centered people.

Carefully read the program policies and religious education calendar which follow this letter. Your cooperation in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

May God bless you in your ministry as Catholic parents, and may both you and your child grow deeper in faith and in a fuller relationship with our Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Elizabeth Heldak
Director of Religious Education

PROGRAM POLICIES

MASS ATTENDANCE: All children in our program are expected to attend Mass weekly.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Consistent attendance is essential in order for adequate instruction to take place. More than 5 absences during the school year may necessitate that child repeating the grade or completing summer work. All work missed due to an absence must be made up.

TARDINESS: Please arrive on time for classes as a late child disrupts the entire class. Children should be in the classroom 5 minutes before class begins. Also, please pick up your child on time at dismissal.

1st session begins at 8:50 AM and ends at 10:00 AM

2nd session begins at 10:30 AM and ends at 11:40 AM

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES OR PARENT MEETINGS due to inclement weather: Announcements will be made on the home page of our website: <http://www.ourladyofthelake.org> . It will be your responsibility to check the website. Please do not call the rectory.

ASSIGNMENTS: In order to satisfactorily complete classes, children are required to complete all assignments to the satisfaction of their catechist.

REPORT CARDS are given out twice a year. Mid-term report cards must be signed by a parent and returned the following Sunday class.

TEXT BOOKS should be covered at all times and treated with respect. Children in grades 2 – 8 should not write in the text and are expected to return their books in good condition the last week of class. A \$20.00 fee will be charged for lost or damaged books.

BIBLES: All children in grades 5 – 8 need to have a bible. You may purchase one from the Religious Education office for \$9.00, if needed. We use the *New American Bible*.

SACRAMENTS: The Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated in 2nd grade.

First Reconciliation Day is **December 3, 2011**

First Holy Communion Day is **May 5, 2012**

Parents of second graders are required to attend the meetings for the Sacramental preparation of their children, **October 11, 2011** and **March 20, 2012**. Both meetings start at **7:30 PM** and are held in **McKenna Hall**. Retreat days must also be attended on Nov. 5, 2011 and March 31, 2012. Children are required to attend Saturday practices for both Reconciliation and Communion. See calendar below.

DRESS CODE: Children must dress modestly. Any child wearing clothing with writing that is deemed inappropriate in a Christian environment will not be permitted in class. If the weather is warm, students are permitted to wear shorts that come down to the child's knees. Short shorts and crop tops are not appropriate attire.

CELL PHONES, IPODS, & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES: As per Fr. David, we will follow Rev. Brown School policy which is “the cell phone, iPod, & other electronic devices will be confiscated if it is visible or goes off during school hours & will be returned only to a parent.” If a parent has a true emergency, call the Religious Ed Office on Sunday morning at 973-729-9140 ext.239 between 8 AM & 11:40 AM. Texting will not be tolerated during class time.

DISMISSAL: Parents of younger children must pick-up their child in the designated area. Children will not be permitted into the parking lot unattended.

EARLY PICK-UP: If you must pick-up your child early from class you must come to the Religious Ed office and sign out. Children will not be permitted to meet a parent in the parking area. Please only pick up early when absolutely necessary. Early dismissals are disruptive to the classes.

PARKING ISSUES: Please use the lower **Pope John High School** parking lot to park your vehicles when dropping off or picking up your children in order to relieve traffic congestion for worshippers at Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR FOR 2011-2012

Sept. 11 *Teachers & aides in-service workshop in McKenna Hall, 9:30 AM*
18 **Classes start, report to McKenna Hall**
25 class

Oct. 02 class
09 **No class – Columbus Day**
11 **Meeting of 2nd grade parents, 7:30 PM in McKenna Hall**
16 class
23 class
30 class

Nov. 05 **Retreat for 2nd graders preparing for 1st Reconciliation in McKenna Hall**
06 class
13 **No Class – Teachers' Convention**
19 **Reconciliation Practice in church**
20 class
27 **No Class HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

Dec. 03 **FIRST RECONCILIATION for 2nd graders**
04 class
10 **Advent Penance Service, grades 3-8**
11 class
18 class
25 **No Class MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Jan. 01 **No Class – Happy New Year**
08 class
15 **No class – Martin Luther King Jr.**
22 class
29 class

Feb. 05 class
12 class
19 **No Class – President's Day**
26 class

Mar. 04 class
11 class
17 **Lenten Penance Service, grades 3-8**
18 class
20 **Meeting of 2nd grade parents, 7:30 PM in McKenna Hall**
25 class
31 **Retreat for 2nd grade students preparing for 1st Eucharist, McKenna Hall**

Apr. 01 class
08 **No class EASTER SUNDAY**
15 class
22 class
28 **Practice for FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**
29 class

May 05 **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY**
06 class
12 **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY (RB)**
13 **No Class, May crowning, Mothers' Day**
20 **Last Class**