

## April/May Newsletter!

Another religion school year is coming to a close and, we begin preparing for the warmth and activities that summer brings. The children in grade two and our RCIC will be receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time and our eighth graders will continue to prepare for receiving the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. As we experience Spring, we notice the flowers starting to bloom and we hear the birds singing. Spring is full of life and reminds us of the future we have with Christ through his death and resurrection.

### **Blessings!**

*Mrs. Carol Mascola*

Director, Religious Education

### **Parish Mission**

Fr. Michael Sullivan will be with us for our Parish Mission April 11 to 14. All families are invited and encouraged to attend. But, those with children preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation Parents along with the Candidates are expected to attend as many sessions as possible. Fr. Mike is very interesting and we know once you hear him will won't regret going. Sessions will begin on Sunday, April 11 at 7 PM, then daily on the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> following the 9AM Mass and then again at 7 PM. The morning sessions will be different from the evening sessions in terms of the talks. You are welcome to go to one or both. Which ever your schedule permits.

### **Confirmation Gathering**

On Saturday, May 15, we will have a morning of reflection for our Confirmation candidates and their sponsors. The morning will begin promptly at 9 AM with breakfast and will conclude at 12 Noon. If a sponsor cannot attend with the candidate another adult may go in his/her place. Please call the parish center at 908 756-0633 # 43 if you have questions.

### **May Crowning**

On Sunday, May 9 at the 9 AM Mass, we invite our First Communicants to join in the May Crowning Procession. A notice will be going home shortly with more information. We hope that all will join us with this beautiful way to honor Mary our Mother on this day when we honor all Mothers.

### **Summer Religious Education Program**

You may have heard that parishes in our neighboring towns are offering a summer Religious Education Program. We have decided to give it a try this summer. The program will be for children entering grades 4, 5 & 6 in September only. More information will be going home shortly along with registration information. A brief description of this program is that it would replace the regular religious education program during the school year for those who wish to take advantage of it. We will continue to have the traditional program for those not interested in the summer program. This would simply be another option. The program will run 9 AM to 12 Noon daily for two weeks. After doing some research on how the other parishes who offer this type of program work, the norm is that in order for children to attend this program a parent, or other adult family member/friend must volunteer to help in some capacity for the two weeks. For those of you who are off in the summer this may be a great option for you? Training for all volunteers will be provided before we begin and as our diocesan policy states all volunteers must be fingerprinted and have a back ground check, and attend the Virtus Class before being able to volunteer. Tuition will be the same as it is for the traditional program. Text books must be purchased and the amount of hours necessary per the policy of the diocese will be covered. Once Fr. John and I sit down, and iron out the details we will send home the information with dates. Our hope is to do this in July.

### **Vacation Bible School!**

Vacation Bible School will be held July 19 to July 23, 9 AM to 12 Noon. The theme this years theme is called "High Sea's Expedition!" Vacation Bible School is a fun week for children Pre-K to entering grade 5 in September to experience their faith in action through stories, music, crafts and more! Watch for the registration form to come home! As always we can also use volunteers for this fun week. If your free maybe you can consider helping. Mom's, Dad's, older sister's, brother's, grandma's and grandpa's, High School and College Students welcome!

### **Volunteers!**

As this year draws to a close we are planning for the next Religion School. With the changing economy and schedules some of our present Catechists will be leaving us and we will need to fill their places. We are a large program and more Catechists we have the smaller our classes can be and the children can only benefit from this. If you are free during the time your child is in class please consider joining our team and sharing in this rewarding ministry? If you think you might be interested and would like more information please call or stop by to see me at the parish center.

## Calendar at a glance!

### March

- 24 25 Confession grades 2 to 8
- 26 Youth Stations of the Cross at 7 PM in the church
- 31 **NO CLASS Easter Break!**

### April

- 1 **NO CLASS** Easter Break!
- 7 - 8 **NO CLASS** Easter Break!
- 14 - 15 Classes Resume
- 21 - 22 First Eucharist Rehearsal on Wednesday and regular class schedule
- 28 - 29 First Eucharist Rehearsal on Thursday and regular Class Schedule (re-registration forms going home)

### May

- 5 - 6 Last day Religious Education Class
- 8 First Communion 11 AM (Please mark your calendar for rehearsal dates and times. If you did not receive a letter please let us know!)
- 9 May Crowning 9:00 AM Mass

\*\*\* Information for First Eucharist was sent home on March 10 & 11 if you did not receive this letter please let us know and our First Eucharist Portraits and Video was sent home on March 17 & 18 if you did not receive this information please contact us! \*\*\*\*\*