



Religious Education Program of St. Pius X / St. Bernard

August 2, 2011

Dear Parents of Religious Education Students,

Here we are in the month of August and I am sure the thoughts of the upcoming school year are beginning to surface in your minds. Not to mention of course the Religious Education school year. As many of you have experienced, St. Pius X and St. Bernard have come to combine the Religious Education program to give you options to fit your family schedule without having to join another parish. And I am happy to say this has worked very well for families. Not only with Religious Education classes but with offering different date options to attend parent meetings and retreats for sacramental preparation. I am also proud to say that because of having options, the attendance at meetings have been 100% sometimes! So this year the pastors, catechists, and myself have discussed, contemplated, and prayed as to what the next step might be to make Religious Education the best it can be. And I think God has spoken to us that this is the right time to come together even more fully and take the next phase of change to this great program. So I am pleased to announce that the Religious Education classes for both parishes, as well as the families of Mother of Good Council Parish, will all be meeting at the St. Pius X site for religious instruction.

Now I know change is never easy and that it may seem difficult to pull off, but I think with what we have planned, this concept could come around a bit easier than you think. And the benefits of what can come of this coming together are so exciting to behold! What advantages you say? Well, for one we have a campus that our Religious Education students can call their home. The classrooms belong to the students as well as their teachers which means they will be able to decorate and create a holy space for better learning. They can fill not only their rooms but the halls with their beautiful art work as to what their Catholic faith means to them. A chance of creating more youth centered social events could also stem from this!

Some of the other benefits would be having a larger pool of volunteers to help teach. We pride ourselves for having two teachers for almost every grade but with a bigger pool we could have two per grade. Not to mention possibly having a few substitutes! This helps volunteers feel less overwhelmed having to teach all the time. Or for those inexperienced teachers, a chance to have a veteran teacher to mentor after. Another great benefit is that with trying to create a Religious Education Center at the Pius site and having more volunteers to choose from, the possibility of expanding education to our young adults and our adults could be in the future works. So Religious Education can truly become a Lifelong Formation as Jesus intended for us. Not to mention perhaps a chance to have days of reflection or retreats for people of all ages!

So this is how we envision the future of Religious Education. All great things start with little changes. When your children attend in the fall, my hope is that they come with a sense of excitement in coming to Religious Education. They have a sacred space they can call their own, make as their own, and celebrate their faith together with their neighbors from the parishes down the road. I am very excited to see the fruits of this positive venture!

To be clear: Classes will be on Sunday mornings 9:00am until 9:55am and Monday nights 6:30pm until 7:30pm. You have the option to attend either session (for the year) but all classes will meet at the St. Pius X site. The 8th graders of both parishes will meet together on Sunday nights at 7:00pm (also at St. Pius X site).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at either parish via phone (453-3875 x 19 at Pius) or (258-4320 x 110 at Bernard) or email (hlukaszewski@stpiusparish.org or hlukaszewski@stbernardparish.org). I thank you for your time and I look forward to serving you this fall. Classes will begin September 18/19. Other details, including a calendar will be out very soon!

Yours in Christ,

Heather Lukaszewski
DRE St. Pius X / St. Bernard Parishes

Fr. Bob Marsicek SSD
Pastor – St. Pius X Parish

Fr. Mike Barrett
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