



PARENT PAGE

OCTOBER 2011

ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
2001 Woodman Drive, Kettering, OH 45420 254-0622

October 2- Sunday

9:30am RCIA/Family
9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am Early Childhood

3 - Monday

4:15pm Gr. 1-5
6:30pm Gr. 6-8

9 - Sunday

Coffee & Donuts
9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am RCIA
10:30am Early Childhood
3:00pm Rosary Rally-UD

10 - Monday

NO CLASSES
6:30pm Catechist Training

12/13 - Wed/Thurs

7:00pm Gr. 7 Confirmation
Parents Mtg - WC

15 - Friday

8:00-2:30pm Gr. 7
Confirmation Retreat-WC

16 - Sunday

9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am RCIA
10:30am Early Childhood

17 - Monday

4:15pm Gr. 1-5
6:30pm Gr. 6-8
7:00pm FR Parents Mtg.

18 - Tuesday

7:00pm FR Parents Mtg.

23- Sunday

Mission Sunday
9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am RCIA
10:30am Early Childhood

24- Monday

Mission Lesson
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
5:45-6:30pm
Reader Training
6:30pm Gr. 6-8
Gr 7 Field Trip to ENLC

30 - Sunday

9:30am RCIA/Family
9:45am Gr. 6-8
10:30am Early Childhood-
All Saint's Celebration,
Cafeteria

31 - Monday

4:15pm Gr. 1-5 All Saint's
Celebration
6:30pm Gr. 6-8

Welcome to the 2011-12 Religious Education year!



We're cooking up another fine year here in the Ascension Religious Education Program and we have all the ingredients necessary for our recipe. A wonderful group of catechists who are willing to share their faith with your children. A great parish staff that is committed to making our program the best it can be! Resources and materials to help us in our endeavors. And the secret ingredient — YOU, the parents, who have made the commitment to bring your children each week and value the importance of our Catholic faith in their lives. When we put this all together, the end result is well-formed, well-meaning disciples. Ready to live out their faith in action. Something we call all be proud of.

FAMILY ENVELOPES ...

We continue to GO GREEN! In our ongoing effort to reduce our paper use and be more environmentally conscious, we are sending this monthly *Parent Page* and other parish information and flyers home via email. Items which cannot be sent electronically will still come home in a Family Envelope. **Please be sure to sign the envelope and return it with your child to the next class.** The youngest child in each family will be handling the envelope.

PARENT HANDBOOK...

Each family was given a **Religious Education Signature Page.** If you have internet access, sign and return. If not, let us know and we will get you a hard copy of the Parent Handbook.

Train to be a Reader - Grades 2-5

Training session will be October 24 from 5:45-6:30 pm after classes. Please fill out the form that was passed out in class by October 17.

Altar Server Training Signup - Grades 5 & Up

Training for new altar servers will take place on **Saturday, October 22.** Candidates can select either the **10:00 am** or the **1:30 pm** training session. All boys and girls in **Gr. 5 and up** are eligible. Sign-up forms were distributed through the RE Office. Existing servers need not return the forms or attend this training.

Growing Peace at Ascension



Again this year the Religious Education classes in Grades 1-8 will participate in **GROWING PEACE AT ASCENSION**, an effort to promote the Christian virtues of peace and nonviolence in the classroom and in the family. Each family is encouraged to take the Family Pledge of Nonviolence (either the regular pledge or the version for younger children—included in your Family Envelope with a paper dove). **If your family takes the Family Pledge, you are encouraged to return the dove with your family name written on it. (The Pledge stays home!)** The doves will be displayed on the wall outside the RE Office during the year. Throughout the year the RE classes will be working on all components of the Pledge. Each concept is covered in the booklet, **Families Creating Circles of Peace.** Families are encouraged to use one or more of the activities. Replacement copies of the booklet are available in the office at cost.

Students who are observed living out Christian peacemaking virtues will be given a certificate of recognition and the student's name will be entered in a monthly drawing to receive a "peace bear." Each class will sign a Classroom Pledge. Grades 6-8 during a prayer service; Grades 1-5 will sign the School Pledge at the Thanksgiving Mass.

Included in Family Envelope for families new to the program ...

Families Creating Circles of Peace booklet (see article to the left)

"Ascension Religious Education" magnet. We hope families will use the magnet to hang the *With My Family* page (from the student's book) on the refrigerator, as a reminder to reinforce the lesson taught in class with activities done at home during the week.

Prayers and Guidelines for Young Catholics booklet. **(Grades 1-8 Only)** Please refer to *Memorization* in the Parent Handbook for information on using this book at home.

New Program Coming to Ascension!

In an effort to help parents of all ages – particularly those with middle and high school students – understand and talk with their children about the nature of our human sexuality, we are looking at bringing the Theology of the Body program to Ascension. What we are envisioning is an 8 week program whereby parents and children (middle and high school aged) come once a week to go through sessions from *Created for Love* to *Dating with Purpose and Purity* to *Finding Your Vocation*. We would gather together as one – begin with a meal and prayer – break into smaller groups and have our facilitator–lead "session"; then come back together before leaving for the evening. We would like to begin these sessions in January and hold them on Friday evenings hoping to finish up just shortly after Lent begins.

Of course with anything new there is great need. Not only are we looking for those who feel called to be facilitators for the sessions but we also need help with hospitality, child care and marketing.

If you believe you may be able to help out in some way – please call or email the RE Office. We will be holding an informational meeting on Monday, October 10 at 6:30 pm in the Witzman Center. This meeting will explain what Theology of the Body is all about and how we can implement it in our daily lives.

Early Childhood

All Saints' Day party with parish seniors will take place on October 30. More information will be sent home with the children.

Middle School

Service opportunities in October-November: Book sale at Hara's East Hall; Leaf raking; Share the Bounty on Nov. 7; assistance at Women's Guild Bazaar, Nov. 11-12 For more information and ongoing opportunities, see the booklet "Service Learning Opportunities" available in the YM rack in the connector between church and school) or check Ascension's YM web page (www.ascensionkettering.org/youth-ministry). Each 6th grade student should choose at least one service opportunity during the year; 7th & 8th graders - at least two short term. 8th Graders should have their long term chosen and started by now!

First Reconciliation

Parent session - Monday, October 17 or Tuesday, October 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the WC. Please attend the session that best fits your schedule. Letters have been mailed home with more information.

Confirmation

Grade 7: RETREAT takes place on October 14, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. in the Witzman Center.

Grade 8: RETREAT will be offsite this year! We have made arrangements to have the retreat at Bergamo on November 12, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. All Grade 8 candidates and parents/or sponsors are also expected to attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass on November 20 for the **Rite of Invitation.**

Liturgy

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children in Grades 1-3 are invited to go to the Witzman Center during the 10:30 Masses each Sunday and alternating between the 8:30 Sunday Mass and the 5:00 Saturday Mass every other week. Please be sure to check the bulletin calendar for the schedule.

Mission Education

We are continuing our Mission program this year for grades 1-8 called Helping Others. Each grade has been assigned a different outreach ministry which we do here at Ascension to learn about and support. We will be kicking off the program on Mission Sunday, October 23. You will be receiving a letter telling which outreach ministry your child will be learning about this year. A representative from each outreach will come to the classroom and talk about their ministry and how the class can support them throughout the year. It is our hope that in this way our students will have a better understanding of each of the outreach ministries we do here at Ascension as they move up through the grades.

RCIA

We have three children participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (adapted for children). They look forward to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter, 2012.

...also

Please be sure to check out the "**In Loving Memory**" family project in the Family Envelope. Children are encouraged to list the names of their deceased relatives and friends. The page may also be decorated. Memorial pages should be returned by October 24 and will be placed in the parish Book of Life during November, the month when the church traditionally remembers those who have died. This is a good opportunity to get out your photo albums and tell family stories about your deceased loved ones.

Parish Athletics

Teams are open to all Ascension children attending Ascension School or the Religious Education Programs. Ascension Athletic Handbooks are available online at www.ascensionkettering.org/athletics. Go online for more information and signup dates.

and ...

Parent Volunteers are needed for the 7th Grade Confirmation Retreat on Friday, October 14 from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm as well as the 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, November 12 from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. Please stop in or call the RE office if you can help. THANKS!.

HELP US RAISE FUNDS.....

If you shop at Meijer's, do you have a Meijer 1 Card or Meijer Credit Card? Ascension RE is participating in the Community Rewards Program. Using a linked Meijer Credit Card we receive 1% of your purchases or .5% with the Meijer 1 Card. Our number is **571556**. Sign up on-line at www.meijer.com/rewards.

CHILDREN'S STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES...

are available in the RE Office. These are the children's version of your stewardship envelopes. This is a great way to begin encouraging stewardship when the children are young. They may contribute a portion of their own money or they may list a good deed done.



We are on the web at:
www.ascensionkettering.org/religious-education

Classes will not be held on October 10. Grades 1-8 catechists will attend Theology of the Body training

Please call or stop by the RE Office if we can be of assistance. You are the most important influence in your child's faith formation; we are here to assist you!

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