



## St. Michael Catholic Church

Faith Formation Office

317 West Willow Ave • Wheaton, IL 60187 • phone: 630.682.3650 • fax: 630.690.3324

Open House, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

# Postscript to Parents

## Welcome to Religious Education 2010-2011

St. Michael's Faith Formation Ministry is ready to serve and assist you in your parenting role of sharing Catholic faith with your children. The catechists work very hard to help you in this great work of bringing your children to know and love and serve our God. As loving parents, as dedicated catechists, there is nothing more important we can foster in our children than this gift of faith.



### Attendance/Tardiness

To ensure the safety of our children, catechists will circle the names of students who are absent on a form which will be taken to the office where phone calls will be made to the parents. **If you let the office know in advance that your child will be absent, you will not be called.**

Please remember to bring your children on time for religion classes -- tardiness delays and disrupts the beginning of the class period.

Students who are tardy and whose classes meet in the School building need to stop at the concession stand where they will receive a tardy-slip. They need to give this slip to their teacher who will make sure it is delivered to the office. Students who are tardy and whose classes meet in the Faith Center need to proceed to the office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor before they go to their classroom. This process will help us to be accountable for all children and eliminate unnecessary calls.



### Class Sessions and Times for Preschool through Grade 6

*All classes run 1 hour and 15 minutes*

**Session A - Sunday - 8:45 to 10:00 a.m.**

**Session B - Sunday - 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.**

**Session C - Monday - 4:30 - 5:45 p.m.**

### Contacts:

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*A Postscript to Parents will be delivered to you several times a year. It will be emailed to you and posted on St. Michael's Website – Faith Formation link. If you do not receive anything in September, please call the office and provide us with your email.*

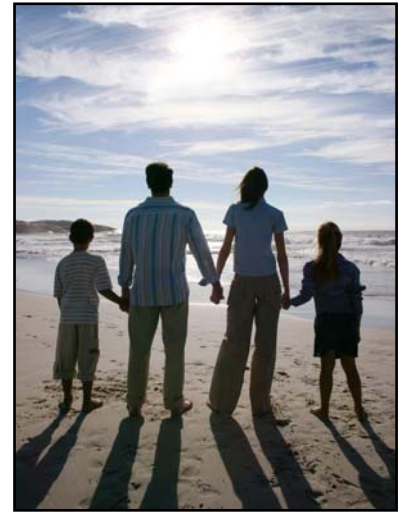
# FORMING YOUR FAMILY IN FAITH

## HOW MATURE IS YOUR FAITH?

I've heard it said the Catholic faith is not for children. Although as adults we teach children, our faith should not remain childlike. In adulthood, we are called to "...leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity..." (Hebrews 6:1)

If such maturity is important for all adult Catholic Christians, it is especially important for parents who, at baptism, promise to raise their children in the faith. We can teach our children the beauty of our Catholic faith only when we personally practice and treasure it.

So, if you think you learned everything you need to know about Catholicism in grade school, think again. There are all sorts of opportunities to help each of us "advance to maturity" in our personal faith journey at St. Michael. I am asking each family to do two things to feed mind and spirit this year.



## BACK TO THE BASICS

### ATTEND MASS

Please take your family to mass each week. If Sunday mornings are too hectic, try Saturday evenings at 5:00PM. Remember, Religious Education is not worship. Mass is the place we meet Jesus. To have His life—really and truly present in the Eucharist—dwell within us is how God planned to help us through our journey. So, allow God, in His mystery, to nourish us with the Eucharist, speak to us through His Word, and minister to us during the mass.

### GO TO RECONCILIATION

If it has been more than a year since attending Reconciliation, I encourage all families—children, parents and teens—to go. Let God heal us through this sacrament and touch us with grace. Take the process in steps, if it's been a few years or even a few decades. First, decide whether you want to attend here at St. Mike's or at another parish. Next, check parish websites for Reconciliation times. Then, despite the cliché, "Just do it!" Chances are you'll meet resistance from at least one person in your family, but forge ahead anyway. Simply set a date and pile everyone into the car, regardless of excuses. Treat everyone to ice cream when you're done!



## THANK YOU...

for taking time to "advance in maturity" and teach your children as we learn and grow together. I ask all of us parents to remember that our children will thank us, eventually, for giving them the gift of authentic faith.

