

August 15, 2011

Dear Parents of Religious Education Students,

Thank you for registering your child/children in St. Theodore's religious education program. If you have not registered yet, please do so by **Wednesday, August 31st**. The forms are available in the Narthex at church or can be downloaded from our website at www.sttheodorenj.com.

As usual, the summer goes by much too quickly, but there is something to be said for having a routine with children. I have enclosed a copy of the Religious Education Calendar for the year with our **Opening Day beginning with Holy Mass at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 11th**. Let us come together to pray for our country's safety and to pray for the families that lost a loved one so tragically 10 years ago. The students will also be meeting their teachers and receiving their books this day. After the Mass, the First Graders will go to the Sacristy; Second Grade to the Main Office; Third Grade to the Music Room; Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh in the Parish Hall and Eighth Grade students will remain in the Sanctuary. Hopefully, this will allow for less confusion.

God has given each of us free will to make our own choices, but with choices there are always consequences. This summer many families have chosen not to attend Mass. How sad for them to chose not to stay close to God. The bible says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." Your love for God will be returned hundredfold. Come to Jesus and receive His many graces and blessings. Please don't conform to the ways of the world. Our foundation of our faith is in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the gift of himself in the Holy Eucharist. This is the Holy Mass, the foundation of our faith. The Monday evening classes are to educate your children more about their Catholic faith, but it will have no meaning without their participation in the Mass.

This summer, St. Theodore's Parish offered a very successful Vacation Bible School, thanks to the many volunteers from both the adults and students. We had approximately 40 children attend, and 16 students volunteer. It was a lot of fun for all of us, including Father Zenek. It began every day with the Holy Mass.

I will be having a Children's Choir practice on the second Sunday of every month from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. On September 11th, the Mass is for the children at 12 p.m. so bring them at 11:15 a.m. to practice the songs. Hopefully, with the parents commitment to bring children to these practices, I can build a larger Children's Choir to sing at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on the Second

Sunday (Hospitality) of the month (Oct. 9th, Nov. 13th, Dec. 11th, Jan. 8th, Feb. 11th, Mar. 11th, Apr. 8th, May 13th). On Monday, October 31st (All Saint's Day), and Wednesday, December 7th (Feast of the Immaculate Conception) have the children come at 5:45 p.m. to sing at 6:30 p.m. Mass. The only criteria to be a part of the choir is that the children have to be able to read. ***Let the children come and make a joyful noise to the Lord!***

Father Zenek and I look forward to another active and rewarding year with you and your family here at St. Theodore's Church.

God bless you,

Elisa Sforza
Religious Education Coordinator

CC: Father Zenek Boczek, SDS, Pastor