

**ST. ANTHONY'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
FARNHAM, NEW YORK**

August/September 2016

Dear Parents and Students,

Plans are underway to begin our Religious Education/Youth Ministry Program in September. Our theme this year is **"Prayer"**. Open registration for the coming year will begin **Sunday, August 14th through Sunday, September 11th**. We have incorporated both programs registration format into one packet, which includes a media/internet permission form. ***Please be sure each page is thoroughly reviewed and completed.*** For your convenience, registration forms and fees may be returned by mail, or placed in any of the weekend collection baskets through **Sunday, September 11th**. **PLEASE mark your envelope, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/YOUTH MINISTRY REGISTRATION.**

I would like to welcome back our returning catechists from last year, and those who will be joining our staff in September. We are certainly blessed with talented, dedicated individuals willing to share their faith with the young people of our parish. Our need for additional catechists and volunteers continues to grow, along with the growth and busy schedule of our programs. If anyone is interested in this ministry, please let me know.

Catechetical Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, September 18th at 9:00 a.m. Mass. All students and parents are requested to join in this celebration.

Classes will begin on Sunday, September 18, 2016 for ALL students. The following is information regarding our programs.

ELEMENTARY PROGRAM, (Kindergarten through Grade 6)

- **Classes will begin Sunday, September 18th immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Mass – Classes begin promptly at 9:45 AM with dismissal at 11:00 AM. A MANDATORY meeting will be held in the Church at 10:30 AM on Sunday, September 18th – ONE PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE.**
- **Sacramental Preparation for Grades 2 and 3:** In accordance with the Diocese of Buffalo Curriculum Guidelines, the Sacramental Preparation Program for Grades 2 and 3 will be held at a separate time from their weekly Sunday classes. **Attendance at ALL sacramental sessions is required, or a student will be ineligible to receive the sacrament they are preparing for.**
- **ATTENDANCE AT CLASSES IS MANDATORY, PER DIOCESAN GUIDELINES.** Regular attendance for ALL students is strongly advised – Numerous absences will jeopardize a student from advancing to the next grade level – **A total of (4) excused absences from class is the maximum amount of absences a student is permitted, without jeopardizing advancement - Sacramental students will be ineligible to proceed with their sacramental preparation.** The attendance policy will be further discussed at the parent meeting.
- For additional information regarding the Religious Education Program – Liturgy of the Word for Children and Grades Kindergarten through 6 – **Please contact Ann Kirkpatrick, Coordinator of Religious Education, at 549-1159.**

YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM, (GRADES 7 -11)

- ALL CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY EVENINGS FROM 6:30 – 8:00 PM. CLASSES WILL BEGIN ON Sunday, September 18th .
- A MANDATORY meeting for parents will be held on Sunday, September 18th at 7:30 p.m. ONE PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in the Spring of 2017 for Grade 11 – Date to be announced.
- ATTENDANCE AT CLASSES IS MANDATORY, PER DIOCESAN GUIDELINES. Regular attendance for ALL students is strongly advised – Numerous absences will jeopardize a student from advancing to the next grade level. A total of (3) excused absences from class is the maximum amount of absences a student is permitted without jeopardizing advancement - Confirmation Candidates will be ineligible to make their Confirmation in the Spring of 2017. The attendance policy will be further discussed at the parent meeting.
- For additional information regarding the Youth Ministry Program, Grades 7 through 11, please contact Tiffany Bauer, Youth Ministry Coordinator, at 341-0978.

Again, registration forms and fees are due by Sunday, September 11th. Registration forms may be mailed to the rectory, or returned in any of the weekend collection baskets. **PLEASE mark your envelope RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/YOUTH MINISTRY REGISTRATION.**

PLEASE NOTE: To further assist our parish families, additional registration forms will be available to download and print from St. Anthony's website at www.stanthonysfarnham.org, beginning Monday, August 15th. The Religious Ed and Youth Ministry calendars will be available on the website at the start of classes, September 18, 2016, as well as, information regarding the guidelines and requirements for each program.

With your continued cooperation and willingness to support our programs, we anticipate a successful catechetical year. There is a great deal of enthusiasm and spirit in our St. Anthony's Family!

Peace and Prayers,

Rev. James W. Fliss

Attachments