

SAINT THOMAS à BECKET CATHOLIC CHURCH
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION
1421 WIEHLE AVENUE
RESTON, VA 20190

OFFICE: 703-689-3816
FAX: 703-689-3814

April, 2008

Dear Parents,

As we begin to slow down and another year of Faith Formation comes to an end, we can begin to dream of summer and all that it entails. Please consider returning your registration form for next fall before that relaxing mindset takes over completely!

In this mailing, you will find your family's computer generated registration form, an explanation of the Faith Formation program which includes information on how to register, a volunteer form and a pre-addressed return envelope. Please carefully read the information, fill in the forms where necessary and return the registration form, volunteer form and payment to me as soon as possible.

Our program has grown and our sessions fill up quickly. Registration forms are processed in the order they are returned.

For those of you who have children beyond grade 5, you will need to register through the Middle school/High School coordinator, Betsy Coffey. Please call her at 703-689-3816 extension 2 for further information.

In order to provide the best possible formation for your children, I need your help. I would like to ask all of you to prayerfully consider volunteering this coming year. As the program has grown, the needs have also increased. If you are not comfortable teaching children, we do have other ways you can be of service. See the volunteer form for further information.

I hope that you and your children have had an experience where you have, at least in a small way, grown in your love of God and practice of our Catholic faith this past year. I look forward to seeing many of you during the summer, and at the kickoff and social on Wednesday, September 10, 2008. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. Summer office hours begin May 12, 2008 and will be Monday through Thursday from 9:30-4:30.

God bless,

Sue Colyer
Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

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CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION
SEPTEMBER 2008 TO MAY 2009

- Our annual Faith Formation kickoff and social will be held on **Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.** Most catechists will be there to meet and greet parents as well as children. Class rosters with room numbers will be posted. Please come greet your friends and welcome those whom you have not yet met.
- **Registration for children who are enrolled in the 6th grade and up will be done through a separate middle school/youth ministry process. For further information regarding older children, call Betsy Coffey at (703) 689-3816 extension 2.**
- Families must be registered members of the parish before children can be enrolled in Faith Formation classes.

**SUMMARY OF CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION
DATES AND TIMES**

DAY/TIMES FOR 2008-2009 YEAR	MEETING AT THIS TIME	FIRST DAY OF CLASS OR MEETING
Sunday (<i>During the 9:00 a.m. or the 10:30 a.m. Masses.</i>)	Children's Church -- (Pre-school: Ages 3 and 4)	September 21
Monday 2:45 - 4:00 p.m.	Kindergarten to Grade 5	September 15
Monday 4:30 – 5:45 p.m.	Kindergarten to Grade 5	September 15
Monday 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.	Grades 2 – 5	September 15
Tuesday 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Kindergarten to Grade 5	September 16
Wednesday 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Kindergarten to Grade 5	September 17



CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Children's Church

The pre-school program is called "**Children's Church.**" Children's Church is available for children who have reached the age of three (3) by September 30, 2008. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings during the 9:00 a.m. Mass or the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Kindergarten through Grade 5

Classes for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will be offered Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. See the table on Page 1 for the

times of the classes. Each class will run for 75 minutes.

Parents may select the day/time of their choice, providing space exists when the registration form is returned.

See the Sacramental Preparation section of this letter for additional information regarding the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Baptized children in **Grade 2** will prepare to receive the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. *(We expect the children to have been in Faith Formation program in Grade 1.)* Grade 2 children must be registered before the first class in September 2008 to be eligible to receive the sacraments unless the Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation determines otherwise. The dates for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be announced at the fall parent meeting. There will be two parent meetings one for each sacrament. In addition, there will be two parent/child workshops to attend for each of the sacraments.

Baptized children in **Grades 3 and above** who have not yet received the sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Eucharist will be prepared in a separate process. Please let us know when you register if your child has not yet received any of their sacraments.

Unbaptized Children – Age 7 and Above

Unbaptized children **age 7** and above are candidates for the RCIA process (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults adapted for children). Please contact Maureen Roan @ 703-437-7113 regarding RCIA. *(Unbaptized children younger than 7 years of age follow the parish baptismal process for infants.)*

HOW TO REGISTER

- Enclosed with this mailing, you have received a preprinted form from our database. Please correct all information that requires a change.
- If you have changed your email address, please correct the form.
- Also, remember to enter the date and time you would like your child to attend Faith Formation. This information should be placed under the column marked Session.
- **The registration fee for Faith Formation is \$65 per child. Fee's are to be submitted with the registration form.**
- Complete and return the registration form with **\$65 payment** as soon as possible. Preferably **no later than July 31, 2008**, to assist in classroom planning and books/supplies needs. A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.
- **Children will be assigned to classes in the order in which the registration forms are returned.**
- Registration will be closed from September 8 through September 21 to allow for the preparation to begin a new year. No new registration or changes will be processed during this time.
- If you have any questions regarding Children's Faith Formation registration, please call Sue Colyer at 703-620-0772.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Children's Faith Formation

Many volunteers are needed to help successfully pass on our faith. The greatest need is for catechists and aides to help the children. Basic requirements are that you are a practicing Catholic, love children and have an interest in sharing your faith with them.

A volunteer form is enclosed on which you can indicate your interest. We ask that you prayerfully consider offering your time and talents by helping. Training is provided.

The children of volunteers will have first preference on class placement and tuition will be waived for the children of those who volunteer.

If you have any questions about volunteering in the Children's Faith Formation program, please contact Sue Colyer, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation, at (703) 689-3816 or s.colyer@stthomasabecketparish.org.

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Volunteer Opportunities

We would love to have your helping hands!! Please prayerfully consider how best you will be able to contribute your time and talent in service to passing our faith on to our children.

I would like to be a **Catechist**: day/time available: Monday 2:45
Monday 4:30
Monday 6:45
Tuesday 5:30
Wednesday 5:30

I would like to be an **Aide for a Catechist**: day/time available: Monday 2:45
Monday 4:30
Monday 6:45
Tuesday 5:30
Wednesday 5:30

I can **substitute for a Catechist** during the following day/time: Monday 2:45
Monday 4:30
Monday 6:45
Tuesday 5:30
Wednesday 5:30

I would be able to help with **day care for children of Catechists**
during the following day/time: Monday 2:45
Monday 4:30
Monday 6:45
Tuesday 5:30
Wednesday 5:30

My time is best spent in support of office duties.

I would love to help with the First Eucharist or First Reconciliation receptions.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**