

Faith Formation Newsletter
Holy Spirit Parish



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR
2ND SEMESTER 2012

- Jan. 8 Classes resume – Report cards given out
Jan 15 Class + **Grade 2 Rite of Enrollment for 1st Communion 4:30 pm in Church**
** Special Baptism & Eucharist classes begin. **
- Jan. 22 Class + Report cards are due back with parent comments. + **NOON MASS**
- Jan. 29 Class + Blessing of Throats for the Feast of St. Blaise
- Feb. 5 Class 10:15 – 11:30
Feb. 12 Class 10:15 – 11:30
Feb. 19 NO CLASS – President’s -day weekend
Feb. 22 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
Mar.3- 4 Christ Renews Retreat-WOMEN
Mar 4 Class 10:15 – 11:30

2nd Sunday of January 2012

Dear Parishioners:

Best wishes for a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to each of you. We look forward to a year of promise and blessings. As you can tell from the articles that follow we have a lot of plans for 2012. We ask the Lord’s Blessings on you and on us as we move forward together!

Our Catechists are diligently preparing for the New Year. All students in the 1st - 6th grades will be given their report cards today. Also, I am asking each family to respond to the parent sections of the report card. Please don’t just sign it! Your input is needed in the parent sections to complete the picture of your child’s Religious **knowledge** and **practice**! After you complete those two sections, then--sign and return. You will see how much your observations mean to your child and how necessary your comments are to complete the report on their Religious Education. Thank you in advance for this effort.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 2ND GRADE STUDENTS:

Don’t forget about the **Rite of Enrollment at 4:30 p.m.** in Church on **Sunday, January 15th**. This is for **all 2nd graders** who plan on making their 1st Communion in English this Spring. The candidate and at least one parent **must attend**.

THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU

There are 86 families who have their fees
PAID IN FULL

This makes our bookkeeping an easy task.
*****God Bless You!*****

REMINDER * REMINDER * REMINDER

There are about 10 families who have a
BALANCE DUE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*YESTERDAY IS HISTORY
TOMORROW IS A MYSTERY
TODAY IS A GIFT
THAT’S WHY WE CALL IT “THE PRESENT”*

PLAN FOR CLASS & MASS:

On one Sunday of the month all of the Rel. Ed. Classes Will be attending their regular class from 10:15- 11:30 AND go to 12:00 NOON Mass as a class! All of the grades will be sitting in the front half of church with their classes.

Of course, all of the families will have space for attending Mass in the rest of the Church. We expect the whole family to attend this Mass. This is not drop-off pick-up event. Please plan to be there.

On these days, dismissal will be from the church after the NOON Mass.

(The school will be locked at 11:30 when the groups depart for church. There will be no dismissal from school after the Mass.)

We plan to try this 2 times during the 2nd semester. The Class/Mass dates are:

Sunday, January 22nd
Sunday, March 18th

Please mark these dates on your calendar for 2012

We wish to thank those who presented this idea to us.

We are always looking for suggestions from Parents and Catechist. If you have any idea for improving our program, please contact us. We always look forward to hearing from you.

THANK YOU TO OUR ALTAR SERVERS:

We extend a word of thanks to these Religious Education students who have been trained as altar servers. The whole parish is grateful for their dedicated service at Sunday Mass.

Jennifer Barrett
Mitchell Struewing

ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS:

By now you should have received the schedule for Dec., Jan. and Feb. Remember to sign-in each time you serve. If you are unable to make your time, please find a sub. If you need another copy, feel free to contact Jennifer Walters. We are still in need of volunteers for some Masses. Thank you for all your help and if you are available to serve please contact at Jennifer Walters at 898-2536.

WEEKLY SUNDAY COLLECTIONS: I have written and spoken extensively in the past about the need to make children aware of the responsibility of **ALL CHRISTIANS** to support the church through **BOTH donated service AND financial contributions**. Truly, I believe that these practices must begin early in our Religious formation, and I see the children's contribution as the ideal way to start! It is important that they **EARN** what they **GIVE**. This will REQUIRE some planning on your part. Please share these thoughts with your family. This is one more way to implement the **PARISH/FAMILY PARTNERSHIP THAT IS THE BASIS OF ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**.

A SPECIAL BAPTISM CLASS will begin Sunday, **January 15th** for children ages 2 - 10 (+ or -) who have not yet been baptized. If you know of anyone in need of this sacrament, please call the Rel. Ed. Office at 357-6915. A.S.A.P.

A SPECIAL FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will begin Sunday, **January 15th** for all children in grades 3 - 8 who did not receive the First Eucharist in the 2nd grade. If you know of anyone in need of this sacrament, please call the Rel. Ed. Office at 357-6915. A.S.A.P.

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION NEWS:

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Faith Formation Commission, PLEASE give your name to Sr. Joann. We need at least three new members each year. In-service is provided. Commission meetings are held once a month on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Faculty Lounge.

GOOD IDEAS FOR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

The Religion Curriculum Guides for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis include an important section called:

"THE PARISH/FAMILY PARTNERSHIP"

Here are some good ideas for helping bring Religion into the home!

1. Set aside one evening of the week for family night. No meetings, no phone, no TV.
2. Have your home blessed by a priest, and ask him to stay for a visit.
3. Keep holy water, a blessed candle, and blessed palm in your home.
4. Read The Criterion and at least one other Catholic newspaper or magazine regularly.
5. Place a crucifix and some good religious art in prominent places of your home.

EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THESE IDEAS TO YOUR CHILDREN...

Prayers for Vocations

Lord, grant to our young men and women the generosity necessary to follow your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocations. Give to parents that faith, love, and spirit of sacrifice that will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and cause them to rejoice in their call. Let your example and that of your Blessed Mother and St. Joseph encourage both children and parents, and may our (parish) archdiocese encourage and support them with our prayers. Amen.

PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR 1ST EUCHARIST

This year we will have ... children preparing for their First Communion. We ask you to pray for them and their Catechists. This is a huge undertaking and will require a lot of work and generous service on the parts of parents, catechists, and teachers. Thank you, one and all!

The groups are as follows:

Holy Spirit School.....	29
Holy Spirit Rel. Ed.....	11
RCIC – Holy Spirit Parish.....	12
Spanish.....	81
TOTAL.....	133

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Please put this item on your **To Do List**