

# ***St. Robert's Religious Education***

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July 20, 2009

Dear Parents and Students in Grades 1 through 8,

WELCOME BACK! We are excited to start another year of Religious Education here at St. Robert's Parish, and we are so glad you are interested in joining us! Ms. Leslie and I are looking forward to a productive year with faith-filled teachers, an exciting Festival and many opportunities to share in a year of God's love through our faith-based learning!

Classes for First through Fifth Grade will begin on **Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. Classes are held on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 PM at St. Robert School located on 345 Oak Avenue in San Bruno.

Classes for Sixth through Eighth Grade will begin on **Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**. Classes are held on scheduled Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 PM. Please note the new class time. Students should plan to arrive in Hennessey Hall *before* 7:00 PM.

Please remember – No food or drink will be allowed in the classrooms. Absolutely no gum chewing is allowed at ANY TIME. Students are always expected to be courteous and compassionate with their classmates and teachers.

The Annual Parish Kick-Off Barbecue is Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> following the 4:30 PM Mass. Please make plans to join us! Also, the Annual Parish Festival is September 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. The Religious Ed Program, supported by Year II Confirmation Candidates, will be running the "Coin Toss" booth. We are VERY interested in getting families involved. If you are interested in working for a few hours on one of the days, please call the office or send an email to let us know your availability. We are also looking forward to getting our students involved in the Friday Performance – We must know by August 15<sup>th</sup> if your child is interested in helping or participating in the performance piece. Practices start in September!

The Religious Education Office is located in St. Robert's School, 345 Oak Ave., at the north end of the building. The office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM with extended hours on Tuesday until 5:00 PM. If your child is ill or unable to come to class, please call the office to notify us.

If you should ever have questions, please call the Religious Education Office. Again, we look forward to working with you and your children so that together we may come to know God's love for each of us!

Sincerely,

Ms. Joanne Bartolotti,  
Director of Religious Education

## St. Robert's Religious Education

Successful programs carry stated expectations. Some questions arose throughout the year that needed to be addressed. We felt it would be important to clearly state those expectations in writing this year for the benefit of the students and their families.

- ❖ **BEHAVIOR:** Appropriate behavior and common courtesy are presumed and expected at every grade level. Teachers are encouraged to use positive discipline and speak to children in a courteous respectful manner – allowing an opportunity to both model and explain expected change in behavior.
  - Persistent behavior problems will result in the following consequences: Students will receive a personal warning for disrupting class. Necessary corrections to the behavior will be explained by the teacher.
  - Second incident, student will stay after class to talk with Ms. Joanne and their teacher to discuss disruptive behavior, suggested changes, and options for future classes.
  - Third incident, parent will be called to join student and teacher to meet with Ms. Joanne to review previous discussions and set up discipline plans for future classes.
  - Consistent behavior problems will result in the parent being contacted to discuss alternatives including if necessary removal from program.
  - *In Junior High, Grades 6-8, additional expectations are enforced to encourage courteous participation. No caps/hats are to be worn during class. No cell phones, iPod's, walkmans, video games, or sports equipment will be allowed in class. We understand that some students may be arriving from sporting events. We encourage students who will be arriving late to walk in quietly and respectfully, in an effort to avoid disrupting the class. A phone is available for students to use to call parents for pick up so no cell phones are truly necessary.*
  - *Realizing that there are only 14 classes within our program year, parents will be called once registered Junior High students have missed 4 classes to determine further program participation. Students with poor weekly attendance may NOT participate in St. Robert's Parish Athletic Program.*
  
- ❖ **PARKING:** Parking and drop off was very nerve racking last year and rules will be enforced this year to ensure the safety of all students! There are parking regulations mandated by the Parish Insurance Company. Please make sure to abide by the following rules:
  - Park in the parking lot, between the Church and the School, and bring your child up the stairs to the middle yard. Children should line up with their teachers, who will have signs marked with their grade. During rainy days, please bring your child to Hennessey Hall for arrival.
  - Do NOT drop your child off BEFORE 3:15 PM, as there is no supervision in the yard.
  - Children are to be picked up in the parking lot at 4:30 PM. Please do not plan for your child to walk to your car outside of the lot as **they will be asked to wait until an adult comes to them.**
  - When exiting parking lot, please turn right. **Left turns are not allowed.**

❖ **PARISH PROGRAMS:** Students in Grades 4 and up are eligible to participate in the St. Robert Parish Athletic Program and students in Grades 6 and up are eligible to participate as Altar Servers. Notification comes home in written form via the students. Parents who wish to ensure that they receive this information may send a written note to the office by the end of the first month of classes. This will allow us to better inform the families when opportunities arise and will avoid missed deadlines.

- Eligibility to participate in Athletic Program is determined by the following guidelines and is monitored by the Parish Athletic Program which is NOT affiliated directly with Religious Ed:
  - Meeting the PPSL eligibility rules (available from the Athletic Board)
  - Adhering to the guidelines in the St. Robert Athletic Program Handbook, including the Conduct, Academic Sections and Religious Ed Program participation (attendance may be verified prior to participation approval).
  - Meeting the following Religious Ed criteria:
    - Family must be registered in the Parish
    - Student must have a consistent yearly enrollment and weekly attendance record.

❖ **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:** As part of the preparation for the Sacraments of First Communion and Reconciliation, all students are EXPECTED to attend mass regularly. Students are encouraged to attend the 9:30 am Mass to participate in Little/Middle Church which extends the classroom learning into the Sunday experience. BUT any mass attendance at ANY parish is acceptable. A student must be in their second consecutive year of Religious Education classes to be eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation or First Communion. If your child is transferring from another Religious Education program, please request a letter from the parish to verify what grade level the student has completed.

- Students in Grade 3 and up, who have not been baptized, received the Sacraments of First Communion or Reconciliation, are REQUIRED to participate in our RCIC class instead of their grade level class. Instruction in this class will focus on general Catholic faith practices, as well as Sacramental prep for Reconciliation and Communion only. Baptismal preparation will be arranged on a case by case basis.

