

**Faith Formation Newsletter
Holy Spirit Parish**



2nd Sunday of January 2010

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 2010. 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.

**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...

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR
2ND SEMESTER 2010**

- Jan. 10 Classes resume – Report cards given out
Jan 17 Class + **Grade 2 Rite of Enrollment for 1st Communion 4:00 pm in Church**
** Special Baptism & Eucharist classes begin. **
- Jan. 24 Class + Report cards are due back with parent comments.
- Jan. 31 Class + Blessing of Throats for the Feast of St. Blaise + 4th & 5th Gr. combined – Vocations
- Feb. 7 Class
- Feb. 14 NO CLASS – Presidents' 3-day weekend**
- Feb. 20-21 Christ Renews Retreat- Women
- Feb. 21 Class + 4th & 5th Gr. combined – Missions + Distribution of ashes; Family Lenten folders and missions offering boxes go home. First Sunday of LENT
- Feb. 28 Class 10:15- 10:30

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ATTENTION PARENTS OF 2ND GRADE STUDENTS:

Don't forget about the **Rite of Enrollment at 4:00 p.m.** in Church on **Sunday, January 17th**. This is for **all 2nd graders** who plan on making their 1st Communion this Spring. The candidate and at least one parent **must attend**.

THANK YOU * THANK YOU * THANK YOU

There are 75 families who have their fees

PAID IN FULL

This makes our bookkeeping an easy task.

*****God Bless You!*****

REMINDER * REMINDER * REMINDER

There are about 21 families who have a

BALANCE DUE

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

*****God Bless 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.

Jack Falvy	Julian Blake
Sarah Emminger	Karen Emminger
Christopher Jones	Andrew Spaulding
Zachary Rhodes	Zachary Rhodes
Addie Runkel	Kierstin Runkel
Alexis, Schroeder	

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 17th 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 17th 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.

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.....	18
RCIC – Holy Spirit Parish.....	7
Spanish.....	Est. 75
TOTAL.....	129