

**2009 - 2010
FAMILY HANDBOOK FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**



**SS. PETER & PAUL PARISH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTER
36 NORTH ELLSWORTH
NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60540**

**(630) 357-2436
(630) 357-2458 (FAX)**

Attendance Hotlines
630-355-1139

S.S. Peter and Paul Parish RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTER

August 2008

This handbook is designed to assist in understanding the religious education program at SS. Peter and Paul Parish. It is the goal of all of the directors, office staff, catechists, leaders and all other volunteers to assist in the education of all of our parishioners. While the parish has educational programs that provide opportunities at every level, supporting parents in the education of the next generation of Catholics is an important aspect of catechesis. It is our job as ministers in the education of our young people augments and does not replace the duty of the parents.

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents”.

–Catechism of the Catholic Church

We are grateful for the dedicated parishioners who have come forward to offer their talents to teach, assist, and safeguard our younger parishioners. We invite all of you to consider volunteering in one of the programs: Catechists, Assistants, Substitutes, Hall Greeters, Office Helpers, Child Care Helpers, RCIA facilitators are always needed. We pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit for all of us—parish priests, deacons, staff, catechists, all other program volunteers and all families.

All families are asked to subscribe to RE Email to receive calendars and updates. Mailings with the exception of placements, evaluation and some sacrament program information will also be posted on the parish web site at www.sspeterandpaul.net. Please add your name or update your preferences to our e-mail directory through the parish web site. If you do not have access to email, you may come to the RE Office during regular hours and ask for your information. All emergency closing information will also be conveyed via RE Email, so please sign up now!

Protecting God’s Children

The safety of your child from all aspects is most important to us. We promise to provide a safe environment.

As required by the Joliet Diocese, all volunteers and paid staff in our program have had background checks and have attended the mandated program, **Protecting God’s Children**. During the school year, we will offer **Safe Environment/Safe Touch classes** for all children and youth in the program. You will be notified before these classes are held and your permission will be required for your child to attend.

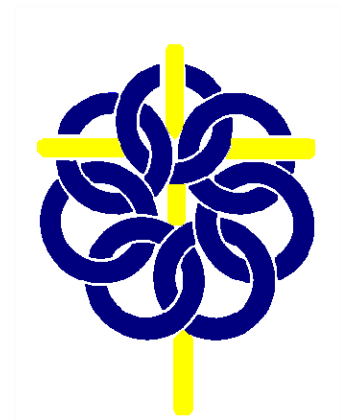
Because all volunteers are required to comply, we strongly recommend that you complete the course and have the background check done for yourself, in case you decide to volunteer within the program.

Your **Family Handbook** contains information about classes, sacrament preparation, calendars and curriculum for all programs. Read this handbook, especially the portions which apply to any program in which your family is registered. Calendar changes and additional information will continue to be shared through the email programs and the parish bulletin.

Parent Guide



Understanding & Preventing Child Sexual Abuse



Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit Street, Joliet, IL 60435
www.dioceseofjoliet.org

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Diocese of promoting an environment that will help ensure the safety of children and young people. If you have participated in a *Protecting God's Children* session, you have already received much information.

This brochure is the next step in to help keep children safe. You are the primary educators of your children, so it is important that you talk with them personally about their safety. The material in this brochure is designed to give you background information about sexual abuse, to inform you about other ways to keep your children safe, and to provide you with tips for talking to your children.

Staff members at the Religious Education Office (815-727-6411) and at the Catholic Schools Office (815-838-2181) are available to help you. Please call them if you have any questions about the material contained in this brochure or if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Content of this brochure is adapted from
**"Keeping Children Safe from Abuse: Tips for
Parents and Caregivers"**

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www.cfchildren.org

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SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION



What Is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child sexual abuse is the use of a child for sexual purposes by an adult or an older, more powerful person, including an older child. *It is a crime in all 50 states.* Sexual abuse is called incest when it happens between family members.

Who Are the Offenders?

- Most sexual abuse is committed by a person the child knows and trusts.
- Offenders come from all walks of life and from all social and ethnic groups.
- Offenders actively work to develop trusting relationships with children.

Who Is At Risk?

- Sexual abuse happens to boys and girls from all social and ethnic groups from infancy to 18 years.
- Young children are especially at risk.

Why Don't Children Tell?

Some reasons children do not tell are:

- They have been taught to obey adults.
- They promised or have been bribed to keep the abuse secret.
- They have been threatened by the offender and are afraid to tell.
- They feel guilty because they believe that the abuse is their fault and are ashamed to tell.
- They are confused because the offender is someone whom they know and trust.
- They have been convinced that the abuse is normal or okay.
- They are too young to know the touching is not appropriate, especially if someone they know and trust does it.
- They don't know the words to tell about the abuse.

Do Children Lie About Abuse?

Children rarely lie about sexual abuse. More often, they are afraid to tell.

PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN

Here are some things you can do:

- Educate yourself about sexual abuse.
- Learn and practice specific guidelines for protecting children from sexual abuse.
- Talk to your children about touching safety. (See *Teaching Personal Safety Skills*.)
- Teach your children personal safety rules before they reach school age.
- Allow your children to participate in personal safety instruction.

Safety with Babysitters

- Ask babysitters for references and check them.
- Interview babysitters in person. Ask how they discipline children. Ask *what if* questions to find out how they would cope with tricky situations.
- Inform them about your family safety rules, including touching safety rules.
-
- Set other rules for the sitter. (TV, phone use, and friends)
- Make surprise visits to check on them.
- Ask your children what happens when a babysitter is there and whether they like her. If they don't like the babysitter, ask for reasons.

Follow these guidelines even if the babysitter is a family member

Guidelines for Single Parents

If you are a single parent and are dating, this brings unfamiliar adults into your home.

- Let your new friend know your family's safety rules, especially about touching.
- Tell him or her that your children have been taught to tell if any of these rules are broken.
- Don't leave your children alone with a new friend until you know him or her well.
- Ask your children if they like the new person and why or why not.
- Watch your children's reactions for clues to how they feel.

TEACHING PERSONAL SAFETY SKILLS

Talking openly and honestly sets a tone that helps children feel safe and allows them to talk to you about anything. *Talk with them about touching and private body parts.* Here are some tips:

- Make touching safety a part of your family's safety rules.
- Take advantage of everyday teachable moments: bath time, physical play situations, when a child expresses curiosity about his body or sexuality, and before a child goes out without you.
- Read a book or view a video on touching safety together with your child.
- Revisit the conversation. Don't just talk about this important matter once!

Teach Your Children These Rules

- It is not okay for someone to touch your private body parts.
- It is not okay for someone to touch his or her own private body parts in front of you or to ask you to.
- It is not okay for someone to ask you to take your clothes off or to take photos or videos of you with your clothes off.
- It is not okay for someone to show you photos or videos of people without their clothes on.

Types of Touches

Teach your children the names of their private body parts. Help them understand that they are the *boss* of their own body. Explain that there are three kinds of touches:

- **Safe touches.** These are touches that keep children safe and are good for their bodies. Safe touches include hugging, holding hands, pats on the back, and an arm around the shoulder. Safe touches can also include touches that might hurt, such as removing a splinter.
- **Unsafe touches.** These are touches that hurt children's bodies, feelings, or spirits, for example, hitting, pushing, pinching, and kicking. This also includes the sexual touches described in the previous section. Teach children that these kinds of touches are not okay.

- **Unwanted touches.** These are touches that might be safe but a child doesn't want. These include the sexual touches discussed earlier. It is okay for a child to say *no* to an unwanted touch, even if it is from a familiar person.

For Young Children

Young children remember better how to protect themselves from sexual abuse when they learn and practice a few simple steps so they don't have to wonder what to do, or have to stop and think. Children can be taught to follow these three steps when someone breaks the touching rules.

- Say *no* or words that mean *no*.
- Get away.
- Tell a grown-up.

Expand your child's understanding of the third step by teaching the following:

- Never keep secrets about touching.
- Always tell about a touching problem even if it has gone on for a long time.
- Keep telling until someone believes you.

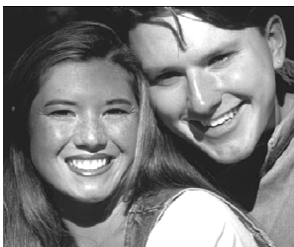
Teach Assertiveness Skills

Children who are assertive are better able to use the safety steps effectively and resist unsafe situations. Assertive behavior includes standing up straight, looking directly at the person and using a strong, clear voice.

Safety on the Internet

It is important for parents to educate children about Internet risks and monitor use of the Internet. Some rules:

- Never give out personal information or use a credit card online without your parent's permission.
- Never share passwords with anyone.
- Never arrange to meet someone in person you have met online unless parents go along with you.
- Never reply to uncomfortable messages. Always tell parents about them.



For Teens or Pre-Teens

Honest, open discussions about sexual values/limits, healthy relationships, and personal safety can make a difference. Teens should:

- Recall that human sexuality is a graced gift from God. Intimate touching and sexual intercourse are morally appropriate only within marriage.
- Know their own wishes, limits and values, and clearly communicate them to their dates. They should listen to their date's limits and respect them.
- Notice if their date is not respecting their limits and wishes or if their date's behavior doesn't seem right.
- Trust their feelings and intuition. If they are feeling pressured into sex, they have the right to say *no*.
- Be assertive and act immediately if their limits are reached, even if it means making a scene.
- Understand that it is never too late to say *no* and never too late to hear *no*.

More Safety Tips for Teens

- Avoid drugs or alcohol, which reduce one's ability to think clearly and manage one's behavior.
- Always pour your own beverages at a party and keep them in sight. Date-rape drugs can be put in drinks and are often undetectable.
- Go to parties with a buddy and look after each other. Always have a safe way home.
- Meet a date in a public place or stay around others.
- Tell someone about the date, where it will take place, and what time it will end.
- Take a cell phone along if possible.

The Bottom Line

- *No* means *no* whenever a person feels pressured about anything and it should be respected!
- If a person says *no* and the other person continues to touch or to force touch it is abusive behavior.
- If a person forces another person to have sexual intercourse, it is rape, a criminal offense.

Safe Families

Being a parent is one of life's greatest challenges. However, if you have a strong relationship built on a foundation of trust, and your children have skills in self-management, relationship-building, and problem-solving, they are more likely to make safe choices and set personal safety boundaries.

For more tips for parents, please visit:

<http://www.cfchildren.org/parents/parenttips/>

If someone has been abused,
contact the Illinois Department of Children
and Family Services at
1-800-25ABUSE (1-800-252-2873)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF

DEACON RON BROWN	DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
THERESA PRATT	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY
SHAWN DENNING-ROSS	REACH RE FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS
ANDREA YARGER	REACH RE FOR ADULTS
PEGGY PARTIPILO	RE OFFICE MANAGER
ARLENE SERIO	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS

	SEPTEMBER - MAY	
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY		9:00AM – 5:00PM
FRIDAY		9:00AM – 3:30PM
	SUMMER HOURS	
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY		9:00AM – 1:00PM

TO REPORT AN ABSENCE FROM CLASS CALL **630-355-1139 AND PROVIDE**

**STUDENT'S NAME
CLASS DAY
CATECHIST'S NAME
REASON FOR ABSENCE**

GENERAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

THE PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES OF THE **GENERAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS** (GDC, 1997), AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS FOR SHARING THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE IN CONFORMITY WITH THE **CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** (CCC), A PRESENTATION OF THE TRUTHS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. THESE INCLUDE THE TEACHINGS OF SACRED SCRIPTURE, THE TRADITIONS OF THE CHURCH, AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE MAGISTERIUM OF THE CHURCH.

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET ISSUES A POLICY HANDBOOK TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF ALL PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE. THE GDC, THE CCC AND THE DIOCESAN POLICY HANDBOOK ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.

SPECIFIC PARISH GOALS, GUIDELINES AND POLICIES ARE ESTABLISHED AND REVIEWED BY THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION, THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY BOARDS. PLEASE CALL THE RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

REGISTRATION

IT IS REQUIRED THAT FAMILIES ARE REGISTERED MEMBERS OF SS. PETER & PAUL PARISH BEFORE BEING ABLE TO REGISTER IN THE PROGRAM.

FAMILIES NEW TO THE PROGRAM SHOULD DOWNLOAD REGISTRATION MATERIAL FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION AND BRING THE DOCUMENTS TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.

FAMILIES CURRENTLY ENROLLED MAY REGISTER FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR BY MAIL EACH MAY

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES ARE REQUIRED WHEN THE CHILD FIRST ENTERS THE PROGRAM.

FAMILY ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ACCORDING TO THE PROMISES MADE AT A CHILD'S BAPTISM, THE PARENTS ARE THE PRIMARY TEACHERS OF THE FAITH FOR THEIR CHILDREN. THE PARISH PROGRAM EXISTS TO ASSIST THE PARENTS IN CARRYING OUT THIS RESPONSIBILITY, ESPECIALLY IN PREPARATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF A SACRAMENT.

PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING THEIR CHILDREN IN THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH. AS THE DOMESTIC CHURCH, THE PARENTS MUST PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR THEIR CHILD'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BY:

- TEACHING YOUR CHILD HOW TO PRAY
- ATTENDING MASS WITH YOUR CHILD EVERY SATURDAY EVENING OR SUNDAY
- INSTILLING A LOVE FOR THE FAITH
- BEING A MODEL OF ACTIVE CHRISTIAN SERVICE IN THE PARISH

WE ALSO ASK THAT FAMILIES BE SUPPORTIVE OF PROGRAMS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- ATTEND A "PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN" CLASS (1 CLASS ONLY)
- VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST IN YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAM
- INSTILL HABITS OF PROMPT AND REGULAR ATTENDANCE
- INSURE THAT NECESSARY MATERIALS (BOOKS, BIBLES, ETC.) ARE BROUGHT TO EACH SESSION
- MAINTAIN STANDARDS OF GOOD TASTE IN DRESS FOR CLASS AND CHURCH (NO SHORT SHORTS, HALTER TOPS OR T-SHIRTS WITH INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE)
- ATTEND ALL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL LITURGIES

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

ATTENDANCE

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND EVERY SESSION, ARRIVE ON TIME AND REMAIN IN CLASS UNTIL DISMISSED.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES IN A GIVEN SEMESTER WILL RESULT IN DELAY OF THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION OR ADVANCEMENT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DISMISSAL IS DISTRACTING TO THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS AND WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON A REGULAR BASIS FOR SPORTS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES.

IF A SPORT OR OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WILL INTERFERE IN THE REGULAR ATTENDANCE OF YOUR CHILD AT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES, SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN BEFORE ENROLLMENT.

CHILDREN ARE NEVER ALLOWED TO LEAVE CLASS EARLY, EVEN WITH A PARENT UNLESS AN EARLY DISMISSAL FORM IS COMPLETED IN THE OFFICE BEFORE PICK UP. THIS IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S PROTECTION. A PARENT MUST CHECK IN WITH THE HALL MONITOR WHO WILL RETRIEVE THE CHILD FROM THE CLASSROOM AND BRING HIM/HER TO THE PARENT.

IDENTIFICATION WILL ALWAYS BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE RELEASING A CHILD TO A PARENT. CHILDREN WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO ANYONE OTHER THAN A PARENT UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE IN ADVANCE WITH THE OFFICE.

FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN, THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE!!

LEVEL 1 AND 2 STUDENTS ARE NEVER PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM ON THEIR OWN AND MUST BE SIGNED OUT BY A PARENT OR OLDER SIBLING.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES WILL INCLUDE ALL STUDENTS TO BE WALKED TO THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BUILDING WHERE THEY ATTEND CLASSES BY THEIR CATECHIST OR ASSISTANT AND RELEASED IN AN ORDERLY FASHION FROM THE BUILDING.

COMMUNICATION

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN WITH ALL OF OUR FAMILIES. COMMUNICATION IS HANDLED IN SEVERAL WAYS:

ELECTRONICALLY

WE USE CONSTANT CONTACT AS OUR PRIMARY COMMUNICATION TOOL. IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED, PLEASE VISIT THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PAGE AND ENTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IN THE BOX PROVIDED AND CHECK INTEREST CATEGORIES BASED UPON YOUR CHILD'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION YEAR AND OR SACRAMENTS BEING RECEIVED.

NOTES FROM THE CATECHIST

THE CATECHIST MAY USE NOTES OR PHONE CALLS WHENEVER POSSIBLE OR AS NEEDED.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PARISH WEEKLY BULLETIN WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SPECIAL EVENTS, SPECIAL NOTICES AND SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION.

EVALUATIONS

EVALUATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 1-8 WILL BE MAILED HOME TWICE EACH YEAR IN JANUARY AND AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

DISCIPLINE STATEMENT

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF IS ACCOUNTABLE AS WELL AS RESPONSIBLE TO PARENTS TO PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE CATECHETICAL PROCESS CAN TAKE PLACE.

THE CATECHIST'S PRESENCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GROUP GUIDELINES WORK TO ASSURE THAT CATECHISTS WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS. DISCIPLINE SHALL BE DEVELOPED IN A POSITIVE MANNER. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT A CHRISTIAN AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE PREVAIL FOR EFFECTIVE FAITH SHARING TO TAKE PLACE.

ANY STUDENT CAUSING A DISTURBANCE IN CLASS AFTER CORRECTION BY THE CATECHIST WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE OFFICE TO MEET WITH THE DIRECTOR. ANY REPEAT VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN THE PARENTS BEING CALLED TO BRING THE CHILD HOME. CHILDREN WITH REPEAT BEHAVIORAL ISSUES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO CLASS UNTIL THE PARENTS AND DIRECTOR HAVE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE. IF SERIOUS BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO OCCUR, ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILD.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

SPECIAL NEEDS

ANY SPECIAL ILLNESS OR NEEDS YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE, INCLUDING: LEARNING DISABILITIES, ATTENTION DEFICIT (ADD / ADHD), A RECENT DEATH OR SEPARATION, HEALTH PROBLEMS SUCH AS DIABETES, ALLERGIES TO FOOD, EPILEPSY, HEARING OR VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS, ETC. MUST BE NOTED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION OR AT THE TIME THE ISSUE IS DISCOVERED SO THAT WE CAN BETTER SERVE YOUR CHILD. THE REGISTRATION FORM HAS A SPECIAL PLACE TO NOTE THIS, OR YOU MAY CALL YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAM DIRECTOR TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

MEDICATION

MEDICATION IS NOT DISPENSED BY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STAFF OR CATECHISTS. IF CHILDREN REQUIRE MEDICATION OR AN EPI-PEN, PARENTS MUST HAVE A PERMISSION FORM SIGNED BY THE DOCTOR AND A WRITTEN PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATION ON FILE WITH THE R.E. OFFICE.

CLASSROOM VISITORS AND LATE PICK UP

ALL VISITORS MUST COME TO THE RE OFFICE TO SIGN IN AND RECEIVE A HALL PASS. ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE BOTH WITH THE CATECHIST AND RE OFFICE *IN ADVANCE* OF THE VISIT. UNREGISTERED CHILDREN WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN THE CLASSROOM WITHOUT SPECIAL PRE-ARRANGED PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR.

ANY CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT PICKED UP FROM THE PARISH CAMPUS WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF DISMISSAL TIME WILL BE ESCORTED TO THE RE OFFICE. WE WILL ASK

CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT PICKED UP IN A TIMELY FASHION TO WAIT IN THE MINISTRY CENTER BUILDING FOR THEIR CONTINUED SAFETY

IF YOU ARE DETAINED FOR ANY REASON, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY TO ALERT US TO THE FACT THAT YOU MAY BE DELAYED IN PICKING UP YOUR CHILD.

SUPERVISION

CLASS TIMES ARE NOTED BELOW. NO SUPERVISION IS PROVIDED BEFORE OR AFTER THESE TIMES. PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PICK UP EARLY CHILDHOOD, FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS FROM THEIR ROOMS OR **INFORM THE CATECHIST IN WRITING WHEN AN OLDER SIBLING OR OTHER ADULT IS DESIGNATED TO DO THIS.** A PARENT WHO IS DELAYED SHOULD COME TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE TO SIGN OUT AND PICK UP THEIR CHILD. STUDENTS MAY NOT ENTER A CLASS UNTIL A CATECHIST OR ANOTHER DESIGNATED ADULT IS PRESENT.

SUNDAY MORNING (EC)	9:15AM UNTIL 10:30AM
TUESDAY AFTERNOON	4:00PM UNTIL 5:15PM
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON	4:15PM UNTIL 5:30PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING (JH)	7:15PM UNTIL 8:30PM
SATURDAY MORNING	9:00AM UNTIL 10:15AM

TRAFFIC SAFETY

WHEN DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP FOR ANY PROGRAM, IT IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN TO **ALLOW YOUR PASSENGERS TO CROSS IN FRONT OF OR BEHIND YOUR VEHICLE OR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET. CROSSING IS TO BE MADE AT CORNERS ONLY!**

VISITORS

ALL VISITORS TO THE BUILDINGS MUST REPORT TO THE RE OFFICE AND SHOW A PICTURE ID TO RECEIVE A VISITOR'S PASS.

GUEST VISITOR ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE WITH THE DIRECTOR WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE OF VISIT.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

FIRE & TORNADO

CATECHISTS HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES WHEN PROGRAMS ARE HELD ON THE PREMISES. CATECHISTS ARE REQUIRED TO REVIEW AND EXPLAIN THESE TO THEIR GROUPS. THE RE OFFICE HAS AN EMERGENCY WEATHER RADIO TO MONITOR DANGEROUS WEATHER CONDITIONS.

SNOW & OTHER PROBLEMS

DO NOT CALL THE PARISH OFFICE OR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAM CLOSINGS. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN E-MAIL FROM S.S. PETER & PAUL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IF CLASSES ARE CANCELLED.

LISTEN TO THE FOLLOWING STATIONS WHICH ARE DESIGNATED TO ANNOUNCE EMERGENCY CLOSINGS:

AM RADIO: **WGN (720)** **WBBM (78)**

TV: **FOX (32)** **CLTV CBS (2)** **NBC (5)** **ABC(7)** **WGN (9)**

INTERNET: www.emergencyclosings.com (you can sign up here to receive an email notification from the website)

OR CALL 1-847-238-1234

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL (3'S & 4'S & KINDERGARTEN)

OUR PROGRAM INTRODUCES THE CHILD TO GOD AND HIS GIFTS, MAKING HIM/HER MORE AWARE OF THE SURROUNDING WORLD. THE CHILD IS ALSO INTRODUCED TO THE MASS THROUGH LITURGY LESSONS AND PRAYER EXPERIENCES.

THE TEXT USED IS "IMAGE OF GOD." SERIES.

MUSIC TIME IS REGULARLY SCHEDULED AS PART OF A LARGE GROUP ACTIVITY. YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO THE SONGS YOUR CHILD HAS LEARNED AT OUR FAMILY LITURGIES SCHEDULED DURING ADVENT, LENT, AND CLOSING. CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROJECTS ARE INCORPORATED AT SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE YEAR.

CHILDREN ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THESE PROGRAMS IF THEY ARE AGE 3, 4, OR 5 BY SEPTEMBER 1ST OR ENTERING KINDERGARTEN. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE POTTY TRAINED.

CLASSES ARE HELD IN THE SOCIAL HALL LOCATED IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE MINISTRY CENTER.

CHILDREN ARE IN GROUPS OF 8 -10 AND OF MIXED AGES WITH ONE CATECHIST AND ONE ASSISTANT

CLASS TIME IS FROM 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM. YOU CHILD MUST BE SIGNED IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM EACH WEEK. AGAIN, THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD. PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD IN WITH A YOUNG SIBLING (UNDER AGE 10).

EARLY CHILDHOOD DOES NOT MEET EVERY SUNDAY. PLEASE CONSULT THE CALENDAR ON THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEB PAGE FOR SPECIFIC MEETING DATES.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FIRST LEVEL

THEME: INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY TRINITY THROUGH PRESENTATIONS ON GOD THE FATHER, THE LIFE OF JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT, GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION AND OUR PART IN THAT PLAN, ESPECIALLY IN THE CHURCH. ACQUAINTS CHILDREN WITH MARY, ANGELS, AND THE SAINTS. CHILDREN LEARN BASIC PRAYERS.

AIM: TO INTRODUCE FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS TO THE CHURCH'S FAITH REGARDING THE TRIUNE GOD, THE LIFE OF JESUS, THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THE LIFE OF PRAYER, WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON GROWING TO KNOW, LOVE, AND SERVE GOD IN FAITHFULNESS.

SECOND LEVEL (SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION AND EUCHARIST)

THEME: PREPARATION FOR THE FIRST RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF PENANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION, WITH THE LAW OF GOD AND SALVATION HISTORY AS BACKGROUND. THE LESSONS EMPHASIZE GOD'S MERCY AND LOVE. THE CURRICULUM COVERS CREATION, THE COVENANT WITH MOSES, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, REDEMPTION, FORGIVENESS OF SINS, AND THE MASS.

AIM: TO PREPARE SECOND-GRADE STUDENTS FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF PENANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION AND TO HELP THEM APPRECIATE GOD'S LOVE FOR THEM SHOWN IN THESE TWO SACRAMENTS. STUDENTS WILL LEARN HOW TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE, THE ORDER OF THE MASS, AND THE BASICS OF PRAYER.

THIRD LEVEL

THEME: GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION, FROM CREATION TO THE INCARNATION AND REDEMPTION, TO THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH AT PENTECOST AND OUR LIFE IN THE CHURCH. SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SACRAMENTS OF PENANCE AND THE EUCHARIST, AND THE MASS.

AIM: TO TEACH THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS THAT THEY BELONG TO GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE AND THAT GRACE ENABLES EACH CHILD TO BE UNITED WITH GOD AND HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN GOD'S FAMILY, THE CHURCH. ALSO, TO ENCOURAGE PRAYER, LOVE FOR GOD'S LAW, AND FREQUENT RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENTS.

FOURTH LEVEL

THEME: GOD'S PLAN TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM SIN (SALVATION HISTORY), HOW WE PARTICIPATE IN THAT PLAN, AND THE MANY WAYS GOD HELPS US IN OUR PILGRIMAGE ON EARTH TO HEAVEN THROUGH HIS WORD, HIS LAW, AND HIS CHURCH.

AIM: TO HELP-FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THEIR PURPOSE AND GOAL IN LIFE, AND TO SEE GOD'S PLAN IN HISTORY AND SOCIETY TO LEAD US ALL TO HEAVEN, OUR TRUE ETERNAL HOME.

FIFTH LEVEL

THEME: A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE ARTICLES OF THE CREED AS THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH, WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CAREFUL UNDERSTANDING OF DEFINITIONS THROUGH THE WORDS OF THE GOSPELS, THE PROPHETS, AND THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH.

AIM: TO HELP FIFTH-GRADE STUDENTS ACQUIRE A SOLID KNOWLEDGE OF GOD AND HIS CHURCH THROUGH UNDERSTANDING THE CREED WE PROFESS, AND DISTINGUISHING THE TRUTHS OF OUR FAITH FROM ERRORS THAT LEAD AWAY FROM THE LOVE OF GOD.

SIXTH LEVEL

THEME: AN OVERVIEW FOR A CHRISTIAN LIFE OF LOVE: THE LAW OF GOD, ESPECIALLY IN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, AND THE PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE HOLY MASS. THE INTERACTION OF THE CHALLENGES OF GOD'S LAW AND HIS GIFTS OF GRACE THAT HELP US FULFILL HIS LAW IN PREPARATION FOR THE PARTICULAR AND GENERAL JUDGMENTS.

AIM: TO HELP SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS LEARN TO LOVE AND DEEPLY LIVE THE LAW AS CHRIST DID, TO CHERISH THE MASS AS OUR GREATEST PRAYER TO GOD, AND ESPECIALLY TO REVERE AND ADORE JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

THE JUNIOR HIGH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE POSITIVE ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH IN DISCIPLESHIP AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY WITHIN A YOUTH-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH CATECHESIS/WORSHIP, COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SOCIALIZATION. JUNIOR HIGH ALSO INCLUDES PREPARATION FOR AND RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

SEVENTH LEVEL

THEME: BEGINNING WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S LOVING GIFT OF THE REVELATION OF HIMSELF THROUGH CREATION, THE PROPHETS, THE INCARNATION, AND THE CHURCH, GRACE IS UNDERSTOOD AS CENTRAL TO OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. IT UNITES US WITH HIM AND ALLOWS US TO SHARE IN HIS ETERNAL LIFE. THE LESSONS PLACE SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE OF GRACE IN DEVELOPING THE VIRTUES, AND ESPECIALLY ON THE TRANSMISSION OF GRACE THROUGH THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS.

AIM: TO HELP SEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS TREASURE THE SACRAMENTS AS INDISPENSABLE ELEMENTS OF A FULL CHRISTIAN LIFE OF LOVE AND TRUTH. TO DEEPEN AN UNDERSTANDING OF GRACE, HOW IT IS GIVEN, AND ITS RELATION TO PRACTICING THE VIRTUES. TO APPRECIATE THE GIFTS OF FAITH AND REASON.

EIGHTH LEVEL (SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION)

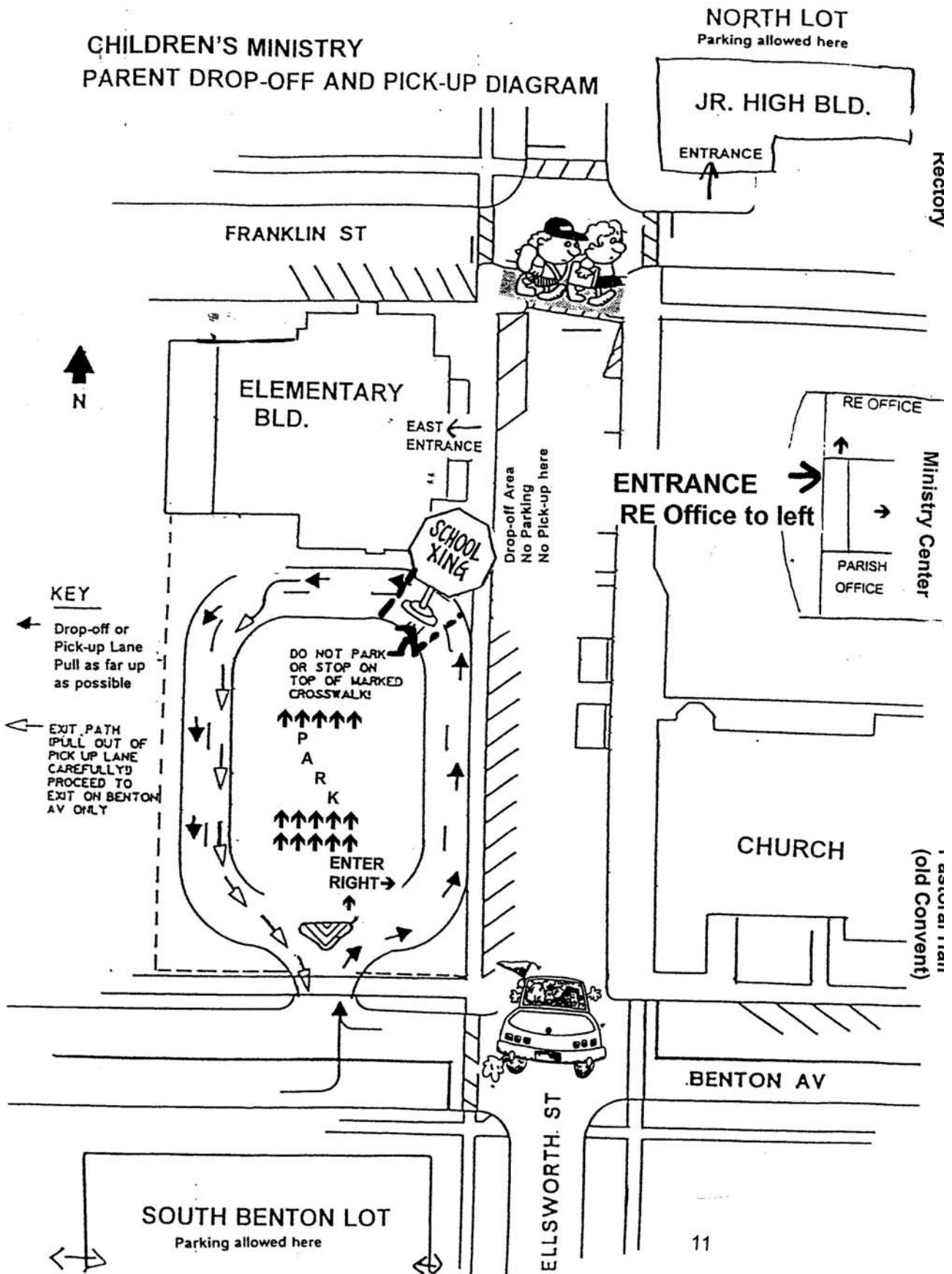
THEME: THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH - ITS FOUNDING BY CHRIST, ITS BIRTH AND LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT; THE MARKS OF THE ONE, TRUE CHURCH; THE FATHERS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH; THE SAINTS AND THE ROLE OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN CHURCH HISTORY. THE STRUCTURE AND HIERARCHY OF THE CHURCH AS JESUS PLANNED. THE ROLE OF THE MAGISTERIUM, THE CLERGY, THE RELIGIOUS AND THE LAITY, AND OUR OWN VOCATIONS IN RELATION TO THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE.

AIM: TO HELP EIGHTH-GRADE STUDENTS KNOW AND LOVE THE CHURCH AS CHRIST'S BODY, TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THEIR LIFE IN THE CHURCH, AND RESPOND TO THE TEACHING OF THE MAGISTERIUM AS THE SURE VOICE OF JESUS, SO THAT THEY MAY BE STRENGTHENED IN THEIR LIVES IN THE CHURCH AND BE ABLE TO LIVE LIVES OF CHRISTIAN HOLINESS WITHIN THE WORLD MORE FULLY.

SERVICE

SERVICE TO PARISH AND/OR COMMUNITY IS REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS. A LIST OF ACCEPTABLE SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS. A MINIMUM OF 12 SERVICE HOURS MUST BE COMPLETED DURING LEVEL SEVEN AND 12 SERVICE HOURS MUST BE COMPLETED DURING LEVEL EIGHT.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
PARENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP DIAGRAM**



TRAFFIC SAFETY GUIDELINES

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR SAFE AND ORGANIZED DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF CHILDREN, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IS USING THE PLAN SHOWN BELOW. PLEASE READ THESE DIAGRAMS AND PROCEDURES CAREFULLY. **SAFETY OF EVERY CHILD IS A PRIORITY! TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY SESSIONS GENERATE DANGEROUS TRAFFIC CONDITIONS. RESPECT TRAFFIC PATROL VOLUNTEERS, ALL SIGNS AND NO PARKING PLACES. YOU WILL BE TICKETED IF PARKED ILLEGALLY. DO NOT PERMIT YOUR CHILD TO CROSS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET AT ANY TIME.**

PARENT PARKING AREAS

PARKING AND LEAVING YOUR PARKED VEHICLE IS PERMITTED IN THE FAR **SOUTH LOT** (CORNER OF BENTON AND ELLSWORTH AND CENTER OF THE **NORTH LOT (NEXT TO THE ELEMENTARY BUILDING)**).

DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

ELEMENTARY BUILDING: ENTER CHURCH LOT FROM BENTON ST. USING THE CIRCLES, DROP OFF STUDENTS AS CLOSE TO THE FRONT DOOR AS POSSIBLE. **WATCH FOR WALKING STUDENTS.** STUDENTS WILL ENTER FROM THE ELLSWORTH ST. ENTRANCE ONLY. IF YOU WALK YOUR CHILD INTO THE BUILDING, PARK IN THE **CENTER OF THE CHURCH LOT, FACING NORTH.**

JUNIOR HIGH BUILDING: DROP OFF DRIVING **NORTH** ON ELLSWORTH, BY STOPPING IN THE NO PARKING AREA OF ELLSWORTH. IF YOU ARE DRIVING SOUTH, STUDENTS **MUST** CROSS WITH TRAFFIC PATROL AT THE CORNER, **NOT** IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET!

MINISTRY CENTER BUILDING: CATECHISTS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS WILL USE MAIN ENTRANCE.

PICKING UP STUDENTS

ALL FIRST & SECOND GRADE RE STUDENTS MUST BE SIGNED OUT & PICKED UP IN THEIR CLASSROOMS BY A PARENT, OLDER SIBLING OR OTHER DESIGNATED ADULT. THEREFORE THESE PARENTS MUST PARK IN THE CENTER OF THE CHURCH LOT AND NOT IN THE PICK-UP/DROP-OFF LANES.

ALL TRAFFIC ENTERS AND EXITS THE LOT FROM BENTON ST. ONLY.

PARKING IS ALLOWED IN THE CENTER OF THE LOT: ALL PARKING IS GANG STYLE PARKING FOR PARENTS WHO MUST ENTER BUILDING AND FOR CATECHISTS WHO PARK THERE.

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF CIRCLE LANES: DRIVERS IN THESE LANES CANNOT EXIT THEIR VEHICLES. STAY IN VEHICLE, PULL UP AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ALL THE WAY AROUND TO ACCOMMODATE ALL THE CARS; STUDENTS LOAD FROM THE RIGHT PASSENGER SIDE OF ALL THESE LANES. PAY ATTENTION TO PARKING SAFETY CREW WHO WILL DIRECT YOU WHEN TO MOVE. PULL OUT CAREFULLY ALWAYS WATCHING FOR CHILDREN. EXITING THE LOT IS DONE ONLY BY MAKING A RIGHT HAND TURN ONTO BENTON ST. PAY ATTENTION TO THE PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS.

*YOUR COOPERATION IN FOLLOWING THESE PROCEDURES WILL PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN. PLEASE BE PATIENT, CAUTIOUS AND COURTEOUS TO YOUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS AND VOLUNTEERS. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** PLEASE CALL IF YOU CAN HELP WITH TRAFFIC PATROL DURING ARRIVAL OR DISMISSAL TIMES, EVEN FOR PART OF THE YEAR.*

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

BAPTISM FOR OLDER STUDENTS MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

PREPARATION FOR **FIRST EUCHARIST (HOLY COMMUNION)** NORMALLY OCCURS IN LEVEL TWO. STUDENTS ENROLLING IN THE PROGRAM WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR FIRST COMMUNION AND ARE BEYOND THE SECOND GRADE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL, WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENROLL IN THEIR REGULAR CLASS FOR ONE YEAR PRECEDING PLACEMENT IN A SACRAMENT CLASS. THE SACRAMENT IS RECEIVED IN THE SPRING OF SECOND GRADE OR THE MIDDLE GRADE SACRAMENT CLASS. PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR CHILD'S PREPARATION.

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) IS PREPARED FOR AND CELEBRATED IN THE FIRST SEMESTER OF SECOND GRADE OR A MIDDLE GRADE CLASS. CHILDREN WHO HAVE MADE THEIR FIRST COMMUNION WITHOUT PREPARATION FOR RECONCILIATION WILL JOIN THE MIDDLE GRADE SACRAMENT CLASS OR SPEAK WITH THE DIRECTOR. PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SACRAMENTAL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR CHILD'S PREPARATION.

CONFIRMATION - CONFIRMATION IS CONFERRED IN LEVEL 8. PREREQUISITE FOR THIS SACRAMENT DURING 8TH GRADE REQUIRES REGULAR ATTENDANCE FOR ONE YEAR PRIOR TO BEING PLACED IN A SACRAMENTAL CLASS. THOSE PREFERRING TO BE CONFIRMED AT A LATER TIME MUST CONTACT THE DIRECTOR.

UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUESTED BY THE PARENT, ALL 8TH GRADERS WHO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IN THE SPRING OF THEIR 8TH GRADE YEAR. PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND SACRAMENTAL INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR CHILD'S PREPARATION

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

REACH: SPECIAL EDUCATION

SS. PETER AND PAUL ADDRESSES THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO DEVELOP THEIR HUMAN, MORAL AND SPIRITUAL QUALITIES. BLIND, DEAF, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED ARE INVITED TO SHARE FAITH AND BRING OTHERS PEACE AND JOY. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ARE INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR PROGRAMS. CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WILL FIND THE REACH PROGRAMS ARE STRUCTURED TO THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH EMPHASIS ON PREPARATION FOR LITURGY AND THE SACRAMENTS. THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTS THESE PROGRAMS.

CHILDREN'S REACH FOLLOWS THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SATURDAY CALENDAR WHILE ADULT REACH MEETS ON ALTERNATE WEDNESDAY EVENINGS.