



Holy Spirit Sunday Religious Education Newsletter
September 2016

Faith Begins at Home

We are so glad you are here and that you have entrusted your child's Sunday Religious Education to us. We do not take this privilege for granted, and we hope that you will share with us your positive experiences, as well as your suggestions for how we can improve our program.

What we teach your child each Sunday is only a part of their formation. YOU are your child's first and best teacher. YOU know your child better than we ever will. And YOU are the example that your child sees each day, living your faith.

“Faith is not something you can box up and hand to your children.”

“Living faith is not something you impose on your children; it's something that informs the day-to-day moments you live together as a family. It's not something you can box up and hand to them. There is no formula or prescribed set of actions that will do the trick. There is just living and loving together and taking opportunities to share what you have found to be of great value – your beliefs and practices of living in God's love.

Robert Wuthnow said in *Growing Up Religious*: ‘Effective religious socialization comes about through embedded practices; that is, through specific, deliberate religious activities that are firmly intertwined with the daily habits of family routines, of eating and sleeping, of having conversations, of adorning the spaces in which people live, of celebrating the holidays, and of being part of a community. Compared with these practices, the formal teachings of religious leaders often pale in significance.’

In short, kids get faith by living in a home where faith also dwells ... Working faith means building up relationships – with God, self, and others.”

Excerpt from “Raising Faith-Filled Kids,” by Tom McGrath, published by Loyola Press. †

HOLY SPIRIT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR 1ST SEMESTER * Fall 2016

Sept. 4	NO CLASS!! (Labor Day Weekend)
Sept. 11	Class 10:15- 11:30(Circle Of Grace program)
Sept. 18	Class 10:15- 11:30
Sept. 25	Class 10:15 – 11:30
XX	
Oct. 2	Class 10:15 – 11:30
Oct. 9	NO CLASS FALL BREAK
Oct. 16	Class 10:15-11:30
Oct. 23	Class 10:15-11:30
Oct. 30	Class 10:15-11:30; Living Saints Museum
XX	
Sat., Nov. 5	Forgiveness Day (Reconciliation Retreat) for 1st Comm. CANDIDATES AND PARENTS 9:00 a.m. until NOON in Church/gym
Nov. 6	Class 10:15 – 11:30 Daylight Savings Time ends. Move clocks back 1hour
Sat., Nov. 12	FIRST RECONCILIATION For candidates and families 10 a.m. in the Church
Nov. 13	Class 10:15-11:30
Nov. 20	Class 10:15 – 11:30 (7-8 grades make Thanksgiving baskets at Holy Cross)
Nov. 27	NO CLASS-Thanksgiving Weekend First Sunday of ADVENT Family Advent Booklets – Color: Blue
Wed., Nov. 30	Parish Penance Service; 7:30 pm
XX	

Please note our payment policy

Again this year, we are only asking for \$35 per child. This just covers our costs. We understand that not everyone is able to pay, or that some people cannot pay for all of their children at once. All we ask is that you let us know if you cannot pay, or how you plan to pay. Be assured that your situation will be kept confidential. Just email Gladys at gstarter@holyspirit-indy.org, or call her at 317-357-6915, or stop by our offices to speak with her in person.

You can also now make your payment online! To pay online, simply go to the Holy Spirit Catholic Church website (www.holyspirit-indy.org), click on MENU, then click on GIVE. When you click on GIVE, you can set up an account and from there you will be directed how to pay. If you need assistance, we're happy to help. Our offices are open Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Monday – Tuesday & Thursday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Wednesdays).

We appreciate your cooperation! †



Catechist's Corner

On *Saturday, September 10*, we will be car-pooling to St. Agnes Church in Nashville, Ind., for a retreat presented by the Archdiocese.

The theme of the retreat is, "*The Catechist as Voice of God's Mercy*," and it will be presented by Dr. Joseph White, author and National Catechetical Consultant for *Our Sunday Visitor* Publishing, and in part-time practice as a child psychologist.

We are leaving from the front of the school building at 7:30 a.m. The cost of the retreat and lunch will be covered by Holy Spirit.

Please let us know *today* whether you are interested in joining us for this fun retreat! †



Last October, our catechists took a field trip to St. Mary-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute, Ind. Here, they pose with a statue of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin.

Have you met your child's Sunday School teacher?

We are fortunate to have many wonderful catechists, assistants and volunteers who make Sunday School possible each week. Your child's teacher not only prepares a lesson plan and comes to class ready to assist you in your child's formation, but they get to know your child and care deeply about their faith formation.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to stop by your child's class, either before or afterward, to introduce yourself to the catechist and to meet the volunteers in the classroom.

As always, we welcome your questions, concerns and suggestions, and we invite you to get involved in any way you can. Please feel free to contact us any time:

317/357-6915; gstarter@holyspirit-indy.org. †

Important information for Students receiving Reconciliation and First Communion this Year

In order to provide a better and more complete formation for our children who will receive the sacraments, our priests are requiring that the candidates attend Mass together every other Sunday. We are assuming that your children are go to Mass *every* Sunday, but we will be requiring that they attend noon Mass at Holy Spirit as per the schedule below, and attendance will be taken.

Your child's teacher and will attend Mass with the class, and a catechist has been assigned to help with the task. Please be sure that at least one adult or family member attends this Mass, as well, and that you promptly pick up your child following the Mass. If you have questions or concerns, please see the Religious Education office (Mon.-Tues.; Thurs.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). We appreciate your cooperation!

Mass Schedule/Noon Mass Requirement

August 28	January 8
September 11	January 29
September 25	February 5
October 16	February 19
October 30	March 5
November 13	March 26
December 4	April 2
December 11	April 23

Please note other important dates:

Forgiveness Day Retreat: *Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m. to Noon, Holy Spirit Gym.* Attendance is mandatory for the candidate and at least one parent or guardian.

First Reconciliation: *Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m., Holy Spirit Church.* Attendance is mandatory for the candidate and at least one parent or guardian, but the entire family is encouraged to attend.

Do You Have Your Book?

Parents: You can help your child's Sunday School teacher immensely by asking this question before you walk out the door each Sunday. In the sacramental preparation classes, students have homework each week, and therefore the books must go home. Please spend time with your child on this work; it can be some of the most fulfilling time you will spend together each week! Also: Don't forget to use the "*Together: Preparing for First Reconciliation*," booklet that you received at our parent meeting. †