

*St. Augustine/St. Joseph
Parish Center
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October 10, 2010

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your son or daughter to our religious education program. We have chosen Sadlier's program of *Discovering God's Love* for our preschool program and *Discovering God's World* for our kindergarten program. Our classes will be held on Sunday mornings in the Parish Center (former primary building) from 11:30 am until 12:30 pm (or whenever Mass is dismissed). Our classes begin on Sunday, October 10 and will run until Sunday, April 24, 2011. A schedule appears at the conclusion of this letter listing the Sunday mornings we will not have class, along with pertinent information regarding the Liturgy of the Word and the possibility of canceled classes due to bad weather, etc.

Our preschool and kindergarten classes will again be incorporating the Liturgy of the Word for Children on the third Sunday of the month. We will begin on Sunday, November 21. The students will have regular classes in the Parish Center other Sundays of the month, and on the third Sunday they will attend the 11:30 Mass with their parents. During the Mass, before we begin the Liturgy of the Word (or the readings), the priest will ask all children involved in this program to gather at the communion rail for a blessing, and then the catechists will lead them to the rectory basement for special instruction on the particular readings. This program is designed to specifically involve children with the readings by helping them understand on their level. The children will then be escorted back into church during the offertory.

In reference to the materials we will be using, *Discovering God* is an early learning religion program that introduces children to the Catholic faith at a level that is appropriate to their social, emotional and intellectual development. Every lesson contains:

- Faith-focused Activity Pages filled with language and listening skills, simple games, visual activities and more!
- Read to Me Pages including age-appropriate Scripture-based and theme-related stories, as well as songs, poems, chants, finger plays, and movement activities
- Prayer Experiences fostering and nurturing the child in prayer.
- Special Celebrations for holy days and holidays in every unit engage the child in prayer and ritual.
- Unit Parenting Pages and Lesson Parenting Pages foster warmth and wonderful traditions in the home where faith is spoken and lived!

Please fill out the attached Family Update, Permission/Liability Form, and Consent Form for our files and have your children return it when they come for class or you can drop it off at the Parish Center. Please include your email address with the family information. It is much easier to contact parents through email in the event of cancellation or other necessary information.

We recognize that you are the primary educator in the development of your child's faith and we are grateful to be a part of your child's spiritual growth. Sharing with you in the challenge and joy of that process is a privilege.

God's blessings on our year together!

General Information:

All classes meet on Sunday mornings from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. or whenever 11:30 Mass is dismissed. We will include Liturgy of the Word with Children every third Sunday of the month during the 11:30 am Mass beginning November 21. During the Liturgy of the Word, no classes are held in the Parish Center. Our classes will conclude on Sunday, April 24, 2011.

Dates we will not meet:

We will not have religion classes on the following Sundays:

November 28 – Thanksgiving weekend

December 26 – Christmas break

January 2 – New Year

April 24 –Easter Sunday – The children will be invited to participate in the 11:00 am Mass.

Liturgy of the Word Dates:

November 21

December 19

January 16

February 20

March 20

April 17

Radio Stations to listen to in the event of cancellation:

Please listen to the following radio stations:

WKKI – 94.3 FM – Celina

WMVR – 96.7 FM – Celina

WCSM – 105.5 FM – Sidney

The cancellation notice will also be on the answering machine at the Parish Center, 628-3434.