

Queen of Peace Children's Ministry Programs
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Family Newsletter
September 23, 2007

Welcome to Children's Ministry programs! Thank you for allowing the Children's Ministry (CM for short!) team the privilege of assisting you in the important role of passing on the faith to your children. Please contact us with questions, needs, concerns or suggestions for how we may more effectively serve you and your family as we grow together in faith. We look forward to working with you this year!

Registration/Attendance: Please continue to check in your child each week at the registration table in the gym. If your child's name is not pre-printed on the list it means we still need you to complete a parish/program registration form. Please write in your child's name on the appropriate list and complete the form ASAP. If you bring a visitor, please complete the visitor form and give the form to the child's teacher during the dismissal line up. Parents will pick up their children from the school at 10:45am unless an intergenerational event is held that week. During intergenerational events the family stays together in the gym for learning activities.

Children's Ministry Parent Orientation Meeting Today: After the opening session, parents are invited to accompany their children to their classrooms again this week. Once you have them settled, please join me in the library for a parent orientation meeting or return to the gym for the adult faith formation session.

First Reconciliation and Eucharist (Grades 2-5) Parent Orientation Meeting: Sunday, October 7, during WCFF, 10-10:45am in the QP School library. Program registration deadline: October 1. Meeting agenda includes an overview of program expectations, assignments and activity dates including receiving home preparation materials for parents and child. Please contact Tricia Boyle at the parish office with questions or if you plan to participate but are unable to attend the parent meeting.

Children's Ministry Calendar: Please use the CM calendar as a guide for Whole Community Faith Formation (WCFF) meeting dates, intergenerational events and other special information and activities. All CM information is also available online at the Queen of Peace website: www.queenofpeacesalem.org. Current information is emailed weekly through the WCFF email newsletter with links to the parish bulletin, CM news, and sacramental preparation parent information.

New Curriculum: This year our faith formation program is using a new curriculum called *Blest Are We*, Faith and Word edition. This curriculum is built on the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Adults, youth and children will learn what Catholics believe, how we worship, live and pray. There are five units with four chapters per unit. In each unit the first chapter focuses on what Catholics believe, the second chapter on how Catholics Worship, the third chapter on how Catholics live, with the fourth chapter on how Catholics pray.

Each grade level looks at the four pillars with the following focus:

- Kindergarten: God as Creator
- Grade 1: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Grade 2: The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist
- Grade 3: The Mission of the Church
- Grade 4: Morality: The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes
- Grade 5: The Sacraments

Grade 4/5 Combined Class: The Grade 4 and 5 classes will begin the year as a combined class using the Grade 5 textbook which focuses on the Sacraments. Next year the Grade 4/5 class will use the Grade 4 textbook which focuses on morality.

Something New: Faith Bucks: In addition to in-class learning activities the program also offers weekly opportunities to grow in faith through take home activities. Children have decorated folders which they will bring home today. Inside the folder you may find a variety of take home activities. Please review these activities with your child and return the completed work next week in your child's folder. Each week that your child brings back completed work they will earn a "Faith Buck." Faith Bucks will be collected throughout the year and "cashed in" at a special prize table set up during our seasonal intergenerational events. The first intergenerational event is scheduled for Oct. 14th. See the Children's Ministry calendar for our weekly WCFE meeting dates and the seasonal intergenerational event dates. The purpose of the Faith Bucks is to offer encouragement to children and their parents to talk about their faith and put it into action in your daily lives.

Children's Ministry Staff: Thank you for your willingness to get involved in your child's faith formation and support the efforts of your child's catechists. These men and women volunteer their time to provide leadership to our Sunday morning faith formation programs. We are also blessed to have students from Mt. Angel seminary serve as catechists in our grade school program as part of their apostolic ministry experience. Our parish will commission and bless all those involved in catechetical ministry next week, Sept. 30 during our 8:30am mass.

Our Children's Ministry catechists are as follows:

- Kindergarten: Patti Morrill and Pio Afu (seminarian)
- Grade 1: Samantha Montgomery and John Crutchfield (seminarian)
- Grade 2: Ann Andrews and Tony Vallicillo (seminarian)
- Grade 3: Malinda Kyle and Jason Handcock (seminarian)
- Grade 4/5: Jane Bartosz, Lisa Martinez, and Ace Racela (seminarian)

CM Classroom Aides: Dawn Plechl (K), Kelsey Wilson (K), Roberta Perez (Gr. 2), Tony Crisi (Gr. 4/5) and Diana Pierce (Gr. 4/5)

CM Support Staff: Lorna Hodges, Kathleen Hoonhout, Stacey Cochran, Gloria Watson, Roberta Perez and Roger Holm

Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders: Miranda Bartosz (8:30am aide), Michaelene Larson and Charlotte Eugenio (11am mass leaders)

