



St. Charles Borromeo Church

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www.ourstcharles.org

September 1, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This summer, our parish community suffered a great loss with the unexpected passing of Mr. David Brantley, a former parent and long-time catechist for our Religious Education program. David was incredibly faithful and dedicated to sharing his faith, most recently with the students in our 4th/5th Grade. Though we can never replace David, we will endeavor to fill his large shoes with the same spirit of devotion to the Truth and the Gospel; and we will dedicate this catechetical year to his memory.

We have also been blessed to receive guidance in planning from two capable and experienced catechetical leaders, Ms. Judi Behnken and Sr. Karen Washabaugh, SSJ of Sacred Heart parish who, though retired from full-time ministry, have been enlisted by Msgr. Aiken to lend some assistance to our Religious Education program at Saint Charles this year. Our Catechetical Year begin on September 17th with a blessing and commissioning of catechists on Sunday, September 17th at 11:00am Mass. The following weekend, our Sunday morning **K-8 Religious Education classes will resume on September 24th @ 9:45am** with a gathering for both children and parents in the parish center. Mark your calendars, and please plan to attend!

For your convenience, I am enclosing a registration form in this mailing. This year's fee remains \$75 per child, with a maximum cost of \$175 per family. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible to the parish office. Early registration helps us in our planning, and assures that we will have the necessary volunteers in place to minister to your child(ren). **There is a discount on all registrations received by September 18th** (see form), the day on which classes begin. Payment can accompany the registration, or you may defer payment until October 2nd; a statement will be sent and installment payments will be accepted. *If you need to make a special financial arrangement, please contact me at the parish office (410-486-5400); no child will be excluded from the program for financial reasons.*

If your child has any special needs (allergies, learning differences, behavioral concerns, etc.), please be sure to indicate in the space provided on the registration form and complete the enclosed *Questionnaire for Parents of Children with Special Needs*. Our goal is to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which *all children* can grow in their faith and experience the love of God in their midst.

Finally, if you would like to become more involved in your child(ren)'s faith formation, share your faith with other children, and help to pass on our Catholic beliefs to the next generation of disciples, I invite you to volunteer in our program! **Volunteers who provide regular weekly service during the catechetical year (September through early May) are eligible for a 20% discount.** Please see the enclosed Volunteer Opportunities form for more information about how you can be of service to our children in this ministry.

I look forward to welcoming your children back as together we all give our children the great gift of Faith by helping them to know the joy that Christ brings to our lives!

May God's Peace Be Yours,

Christopher Welsh

Mr. Christopher Welsh
Pastoral Associate/Acting DRE