

CCD ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Matthew Religious Education Office

August, 2011

“Do This In Memory of Me”

New Mass Translation 411

At the start of this new instruction year for CCD, we have a great opportunity to review and study an element of Church membership that so many Catholics take for granted: the Mass. Why? Because in a few short months, our rote responses during the Sunday liturgy will require our full attention again because some of the words are changing. We will need to check ourselves before we speak, and maybe this will require using a Missalette (or a “Magnificat” if you subscribe) to read along with the rest of the congregation. Definitely a great opportunity for learning! We learn from doing, more that we learn from being told. The actual recitation of the prayers of the Mass is the only way for us to be comfortable with the new arrangement and to commit the prayers to memory.

New words lead us to recall and reflect on the underlying meaning of what we are actually doing in the “Mass.” Let’s review why the community of believers comes together for this event on a frequent basis: because Jesus told His apostles - who were all gathered together - to “Do this in memory of me.” Simple, yet very powerful. Almost 2000 years later, the Church has grown exponentially and we still gather together to remember Him and break the Bread This gathering of the community endures because of the supernatural elements of the Mass – the human community cooperates with the action of the Divine – and thus receives the grace needed to live. And, we will continue to do this until He comes again.

Our instruction this year will include a review of the Mass within all CCD classes, Grades 3 through 8. We have purchased supplemental teaching materials to assist this review and we hope that parents will take the time to read their child’s

activity book, “What’s New about the Mass?” Children in Grade 2 and younger will have the advantage of learning elements of the newest translation right from the start (nothing to re-learn!).

My hope is that our parents will also take advantage of the **Adult Formation** opportunities available at St. Matthew, in particular, the “Biblical Walk Through the Mass” presentations. (Below are the studies offered this fall.)

When the Liturgy changed after Vatican II, I was in grade school . So, I am looking forward to our new instruction year with a touch of excitement to witness liturgical changes as an adult. Positive anticipation is a good thing!

See you in church!

Mary K. Hazen

Director of Religious Education

ADULT STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

1) The Mass studies are done in 5-week segments. The remaining times are:

Wednesdays - Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5 & 12 -

A.M. and P.M. sessions will be offered.

Thursdays – Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, and 17 -

A.M. and P.M. sessions offered.

2) The 24-week Great Adventure Bible Timeline will be offered on Tuesday mornings beginning Sept. 13. I highly recommend this study for understanding the total picture of our salvation.

3) “Epic: A Journey through Church History” will be offered on Tuesday evenings, beginning on Sept. 13. “Epic” covers the eras of the Church from the Apostles through the papacy of John Paul II. A fascinating study!!



Classes Begin September 11

PRESCHOOL CCD INFO:

Religious education classes are available for Three- and Four-year-olds (generally, children are enrolled if they are 3 years of age by September 1, 2011). Grouped by age, these classes meet on Sundays from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. (during the 9:30 a.m. Mass). Children may be dropped off at 9:20 a.m. at their classrooms. Classes begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. If Mass runs longer than 10:30, the catechist will keep children until parents arrive.

KINDERGARTEN through GRADE 8:

Religious education classes for Grades K-8 meet on Sundays at 10:45 a.m.-12:00 noon.

Instruction includes sacrament preparation for First Penance (Gr. 2), First Eucharist (Gr. 2), and Confirmation (reception of sacrament in Gr. 8). Texts and all instructional materials are covered by the CCD registration fee, however a Photo/Supply fee will be due at the Parent Catechetical sessions for these sacraments.

Communication between the CCD Program and parents is facilitated by the use of "traveling" folders or binders which are sent home each week, then travel back to CCD with the child. In addition, updates and announcements are sent via e-mail to those families who have provided access. Throughout the instruction year, a "Family Freebie" table is provided by the CCD Office. Families are invited to browse and take home the items or information they find useful. (Feedback is always welcome!)

All CCD classes begin on Sunday, September 11.

See PAGE 8 for Sacrament Information



Prayer Partners Needed!!
Please consider being a Prayer Partner
for your child's CCD class.

CCD Registration

Families may register for the St. Matthew CCD Program **by mail** or at the Parish Office, by using the enclosed registration form. In-person registration for CCD will be held at the north entrance to the Parish Center (near the nursery) after Sunday morning Masses on August 28 only. Parents whose children attend public/home schools may sign up for the CCD Program and should be registered members of St. Matthew Parish.

A fee of \$60.00 for the first child, and \$50.00 for each additional child, is due at the time of registration. The fee covers text/workbook, supplies, and supplemental materials. Parish children will not be excluded for financial reasons. Those needing financial assistance should contact Mary Hazen at 359-4224. All inquiries are held in confidence.

Parents are asked to register their children by August 31 so that texts/materials are available for all children on the first day of classes.

To Register by mail:

Please complete the enclosed form and mail w/check payable to *St. Matthew Parish* to:

St. Matthew Parish CCD
1303 Lincolnshire Drive
Champaign, IL 61821



Formation in Christian Chastity & the Safe Environment Program

As part of its commitment to provide a safe environment for children enrolled in Church programs, the Diocese of Peoria provides a program called, "Formation in Christian Chastity (FCC)". Based heavily on John Paul II's "Theology of the Body," FCC consists of three components:

- (1) a chastity formation program for parents in grades 1-4;
- (2) a chastity formation program for parents and classroom in grades 5-8; and
- (3) a safe environment program for grades 1 and 5.

At the younger ages (Gr. 1-4), the program is conducted by the parents, with the safe environment portion conducted in the CCD class. Lesson plans and materials for use by parents and catechists are provided by the Diocese of Peoria. Last year, each CCD family received a bound folder with lesson plans for all grade levels. These lessons are intended to be used throughout each year the children are enrolled in St. Matthew CCD Program.

We plan to teach the FCC lessons during the fall semester (2011) , during our regular CCD classes. The "opt-out" form below is provided for any parent who does not want their child to participate in the lessons.



"OPT-OUT" FORM FOR USE WITH FORMATION IN CHRISTIAN CHASTITY

St. Matthew Parish **does not** have my permission to present Formation in Christian Chastity materials to my child. Therefore, I would like to exercise my right to opt my child/children out of the instruction.

Name of Child:

- 1) _____ Grade level: _____
- 2) _____ Grade level: _____
- 3) _____ Grade level: _____
- 4) _____ Grade level: _____

Parent's name (please print): _____

Parent's signature: _____

Date: _____

NOTE: RETURN FORM TO ST. MATTHEW CCD PROGRAM (OFFICE OR CLASSROOM) - BEFORE OCTOBER 1.



High School Youth Group: Blaze!

"Set our hearts ablaze for love of you, Lord."

Youth Group seeks to help high school students grow in their faith as well as their knowledge and experience of God's love through the Church and through others. This is accomplished by exposing its members to formal teaching, faith sharing, sacramental worship, Christian interaction, social activities and service to the parish and community. Coordinators are Jason and Morgan Schreder.

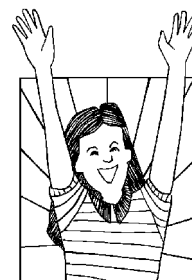
Watch for the Blaze mailing with registration forms & a calendar to be sent out the second week of August. Students/parents may complete the forms in advance and bring them to the parish office or registration weekend, or just register after Mass. Registration weekend for Blaze and Spark is August 27/28 - after each Mass - in the church vestibule and atrium. There is no fee to register, but please note that T-shirts for BLAZE will be sold this year, which can be ordered at registration on August 27-28. [To be delivered at the first Blaze event in September.] And – information can be found on Facebook by searching for "St. Matthew" our page name is "BLAZE! St. Matthew"

Blaze kick-off event is set for Sunday, September 11. The group will be going Paintballing at Fire Mark Paintball in Mahomet – the time is TBA.

Junior High Youth Group: SpArk!

"Be the spark that lights the fire for the good news of God"

SPaRK! is a social youth group for all St. Matthew parish kids in 7th and 8th grade. Activities include paintball, lock-ins, ice skating, service projects, small groups, corn maze, bowling, volunteering, and faith activities. SpArk! meets once a month from September to May. Other meetings and outings may happen during the year and notices are sent in advance. Coordinators are Mrs. Jennifer Clarke, Mr. Pat Kaefring, and Mrs. Mary Knight. SpArk! can be found on Facebook and the St. Matthew Parish webpage - www.stmatt.net.



St. Matthew SpArk! Junior High Youth Group Registration 2011-2012

PLEASE PRINT AND FULLY COMPLETE

Participant Information

Participant's name: _____ Sex: Male Female

Date of Birth: _____ Year in School: _____ School: _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Father's Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Mother's Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Home address (street/city/zip): _____

Home phone: _____

New Access to Catholic Resources at Newman Center

The Bishop O'Rourke Library at the University of Illinois St. John's Catholic Newman Center (501 E. Daniel St.) will be open to the general public (all members of the Champaign vicariate) for the 2011-2012 academic year Monday-Thursday, 1:00-6:00 PM. The library, located through the exit at the south entrance of the Lewis Lounge, contains 7,000 volumes available for check-out, including Catholic reference books, periodicals, CDs and DVDs, and books on Church history and theology, saints' lives, and spirituality. For more information, contact the librarian, Lisa Krekelberg, via phone (217-255-6610) or email (library@sjcnc.org). You can also visit St. John's website to find the library catalog, online Catholicism resources, and information on book displays and library events:
<http://www.sjcnc.org/library.aspx>.

October is coming soon! Here's what we are planning ...

We will hold another Saint Expo during class time on October 30. BEFORE that date, CCD classes will focus on some Saints who had a particular devotion to the Eucharist, using age appropriate activities. There are many saint stories available to children, so we'd like for PARENTS to help us out.

PARENTS: During October, we'd like for you to assist your child with finding information about the Saint they choose. We have lots of resources and more information will be sent home. So - check with your child each week to see what they are talking about in class!

On October 30, we will display our Saints in the old gym and share what we learned with the other classes. Parents, of course, are invited to attend.

Sunday, September 18, 2011 is Catechetical Sunday

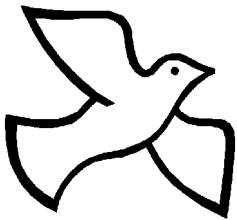
CCD Catechists will be commissioned at all the Masses on September 17-18.

According to legend, Pope Leo XIII (papacy 1878-1903) composed the "Prayer to Saint Michael" after celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with a group of cardinals. During the Mass, the Holy Father fell to the floor at the foot of the altar. It seemed that he had died or suffered from a stroke. Suddenly, the Pope revived and said, "What a horrible vision I was allowed to see."

Apparently the pontiff saw a future influx of demonic forces into the Catholic Church. He subsequently authored the following prayer to Saint Michael, seeking to gain further protection for the Church. Pope Leo XIII also ordered this prayer to be prayed by the priest and faithful at the end of every low Mass.
 [excerpt from cantuar.blogspot.com by Taylor Marshall]

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael, the Archangel,
 defend us in battle,
 be our defense against the wickedness
 and snares of the devil.
 May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;
 and do thou,
 O Prince of the heavenly host,
 by the power of God,
 thrust into Hell
 Satan and the other evil spirits
 who prowl about the world
 seeking for the ruin of souls. Amen.



Sacrament Information

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

1. Parent/Sponsor Preparation.

A Parent & Sponsor Catechetical Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m. in St. Matthew Parish Center (Feeney Hall).

Confirmation sponsors are chosen by candidates, with help from parents. A Sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who is 16+ years of age and already Confirmed.

2. Rite of Commitment - January 22, 2012

On Sunday, January 22, during the 11:30 a.m. Liturgy, we will conduct a Rite of Commitment for the entire St. Matthew Confirmation class. Candidates will have read and signed a Commitment Card, which will be offered at Mass as a physical sign of their spiritual commitment. Candidates may be seated with their own families (within the congregation). After the homily, the Rite of Commitment will be conducted and candidates are blessed by the celebrant. After the candidates receive a special cross, Mass will continue as usual.

3. Retreat Event - To Be Determined.

No date has been set.

4. Rehearsal with Candidates & Sponsors

Friday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Matthew Church. If sponsor is unable to attend, a parent should attend for them.

5. Confirmation Liturgy - Saturday, February 18.

Liturgy is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Further details will be available at the Parent Meeting on Oct. 17.



FIRST PENANCE

Preparation for First Penance is conducted in the fall semester. Our focus is to teach children the meaning of sin, contrition, and forgiveness. During this semester, they will learn the 10 Commandments and the Rite of Penance.

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 14, 2011- Parent Catechetical Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Feeney Hall.

Dec. 10, 2011 - First Penance, 1:00 p.m. in the church.

PARENTS:

Teach your 2nd grader this prayer:

The Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

FIRST EUCHARIST

During the spring semester, the Gr. 2 CCD class prepares for First Communion. Since the season of Lent occurs prior to First Communion, it is a good time for the entire family to focus on the meaning of the Eucharist.

Dates to Remember in Spring, 2012:

Mar. 12- Parent Catechetical Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Feeney Hall (Parish Center).

Apr. 15 - CCD Retreat Day for Gr. 2 & RCIC.

Apr. 20 - Group Photo/Dress Rehearsal for (Friday) First Communion, 6:30 p.m. in the church.

Apr. 21 - First Communion liturgy, 1:00 p.m. (Saturday)

CCD CALENDAR FOR 2011-2012: _____

September	Sunday	11	Classes begin: Preschool @ 9:30am; Grades K-8 @ 10:45-12:00 noon.	
	Sunday	18	Class -- Catechetical Sunday	
	Sunday	25	Class	
October	Sunday	2	Class	
	Sunday	9	Class	
	Sunday	16	Class	
	Monday	17	<i>Confirmation Parent Session, 7:00 p.m. - Feeney Hall</i>	[Gr.8]
	Sunday	23	Class	
	Sunday	30	Class	
November	Sunday	6	Class -- Daylight Savings Time ends.	
	Sunday	13	Class	
	Monday	14	<i>First Penance Parent Session, 7:00 p.m. - Feeney Hall</i>	[Gr.2]
	Sunday	20	Class	
	Sunday	27	NO CCD CLASSES: Thanksgiving break.	
December	Sunday	4	Class - 2nd Sunday of Advent	
	Saturday	10	<i>First Penance, 1:00 p.m. in the church.</i>	
	Sunday	11	Class - 3rd Sunday of Advent	
	Sunday	18	Class - 4th Sunday of Advent	
	Sunday	25	NO CCD CLASSES: CHRISTMAS BREAK.	
2012				
January	Sunday	1	NO CCD CLASSES: CHRISTMAS BREAK.	
	Sunday	8	CCD Classes resume.	
	Sunday	15	Class	
	Sunday	22	Class	
	Sunday	22	<i>Rite of Commitment- Confirmation candidates, 11:30 Mass</i>	[Gr. 8]
	Sunday	29	Class	
February	Sunday	5	Class	
	Sunday	12	Class	
	Friday	17	<i>Rehearsal for Confirmation - 6:30 p.m. in the church.</i>	[Gr. 8]
	Saturday	18	<i>Confirmation liturgy - 10:30 a.m. in the church</i>	[Gr. 8]
	Sunday	19	Class	
	Wed.	22	Ash Wednesday - Lent begins	
	Sunday	26	Class - 1st Sunday of Lent	
March	Sunday	4	Class - 2nd Sunday of Lent	
	Sunday	11	Class - 3rd Sunday of Lent -- Daylight Savings Time	
	Monday	12	<i>First Communion Parent Session: 7:00 p.m. in Feeney Hall.</i>	[Gr. 2]
	Sunday	18	NO CCD CLASSES - Spring Break day	
	Sunday	25	Class - 5th Sunday of Lent	
April	Sunday	1	Class - Palm Sunday	
	Sunday	8	NO CCD CLASSES: EASTER SUNDAY	
	Sunday	15	Class - Gr. 2 Retreat	
	Friday	20	<i>Rehearsal/Group Photograph - 6:30 p.m. in the Church.</i>	[Gr. 2]
	Saturday	21	<i>First Communion liturgy, 1:00 p.m.</i>	[Gr. 2]
	Sunday	22	Class	
	Sunday	29	Class	
May	Sunday	6	Class - <i>Final CCD classes for 2011-2012; Rosary & May Crowning</i>	