

# November



Hello 2020/21 RE Families!

**Happy November!** I hope this email finds you and your families well! Our "work in progress" year seems to be progressing very well so far. This is largely due to our AMAZING team of Catechists AND all the FANTASTIC families who are working so hard to help our parish children grow in faith and love for Jesus. THANK YOU!! Thank you also for your encouragement and patience as I am definitely still ironing out a few kinks ☐. Hopefully you had a chance to see the RE insert in last week's bulletin showing our opening of Religious Education. Even though things look different, it is so nice to be back:)

This year, I am trying to have a **"theme" for RE each month**. In our shortened October, the theme was the **Rosary**. All of the students in PreK through 6th Grade received their own individual rosaries and booklets, and last week the classes were invited to pray the Rosary. Our families at home were asked to pray the Rosary as well, and if any families want to send a picture, that would be wonderful! Our 7th and 8th Grade students will be getting rosaries as well. This month, I'd like our "theme" to be the **Saints**. Our classes and families at home are invited to take time to learn about the Saints and also pray to our brothers and sisters in Heaven. Looking ahead to December, our theme will be **Advent**.

Please take a look at the **UPDATED RE Schedule** that is attached to this email. There have been a couple changes and additions made since last month. Most importantly, there are 3 events this month: 2nd Grade Parent Meeting (11/4/20), 7th & 8th Grade Parent Meeting (11/15/20), and Mandatory 7th Grade Saint Retreat (11/22/20). As I have mentioned before, the bulletin and website are also great ways to know important information about RE and our parish. I will break down the rest of this email in sections for the different groups and classes.

## **ONLINE FAMILIES: PRE-K & K**

- Hopefully you had a chance to read the email I sent you last week. Please remember to reach out to me with any questions and concerns you may have. I will try to send some online activities about Saints this month. Please check out the Allelu website for some additional support and ideas.

Please feel free to send pictures of any activities you are doing at home and want to share. It would be nice to see those little faces:)

## **ONLINE FAMILIES: GRADES 1 - 6**

- Thank you for the returned Scavenger Hunts you are sending back to me. I'll be checking them in the next couple days. I hope you and your child enjoyed searching for answers and praying together. Please feel free to send any pictures of the activities (like the Rosary) you are doing at home. We'd love to see the faces of our friends at home.
- I have attached an **Online Assignment Calendar** for the Alive in Christ series. Please use it as a guideline and pay attention to Submission/Due Dates for Unit Reviews. If you are receiving regular emails from your specific grade teacher, please complete those assignments first. It is okay if the assignments do not always "line up;" just use your judgment and do your best to keep on track. Please feel free to reach out to your class teachers or me with any questions or needs. I have also re-attached the Alive in Christ document that gives information about the series. In order to submit the Unit Review Assessments, **you will need to create an account** so that you can email the assessments to me at [cre@stpeteretown.org](mailto:cre@stpeteretown.org). The due dates are listed on the schedule.

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While simply reading through and completing the lessons in the book is sufficient, there are additional ways to enrich your child's understanding and appreciation of the material. **Here are 3 suggestions:** 1) Make Vocabulary flashcards and either post them somewhere or keep in a baggie for regular review, 2) Keep a Written and/or Picture Journal of a highlight or important fact from each lesson, and 3) Explore the [Alive in Christ](#) website for background information, lesson plans, and additional activities. I was checking out the website over the weekend, and I am impressed! Use the **STUDENT AND FAMILY TABS**. Look at "Student & Family Home," then "In the Home," and finally "Home Session Plans" toward the middle/bottom of this page. There are detailed LESSON PLANS for each grade, unit, and chapter. If you are interested in learning more, just let me know:)

## **ONLINE FAMILIES: GRADES 7 & 8**

- Hopefully all of you have set up your accounts with Ascension Press so that your child can begin/continue in the [Chosen](#) workbook and view the videos that are part of the program. Please engage your children in conversations about what they are learning as this is such an important step in their faith journey. Please also make Mass attendance a priority in your family. Your Confirmand is preparing for full initiation in the Catholic Church, and Mass is our greatest prayer of worship.
- [7th Grade Students](#) are encouraged to connect with each other if possible for discussions. Please periodically reach out to our 7th Grade teacher, Nancy Kuhn, to see if there are additional things to learn or review. Please plan to attend the [MANDATORY Saint Retreat on 11/22/20 from 5:30 - 7:30PM](#). This is a requirement for Confirmation, and it is helpful to complete it early in 7th Grade year.
- [8th Grade Students](#) are to be attending class via Zoom link that Miss Kelsea Davis has sent to you. This is the VERY BEST way to stay connected to the class and better understand and participate in the preparation for Confirmation. We are very blessed to have the technology and a catechist who is able and willing to provide this. Please plan to attend the [Parent Meeting on 11/15 at 6PM](#). There will be a great deal of information shared, and it is important that you know and understand the requirements for Confirmation. I will begin sending some opportunities for required Service Hours and Formation for your children. Stay tuned...

Well, as I am watching Election results and they are calling states, I am going to call it on this email! I sure do talk a lot!! I just want to make sure I am getting helpful information out to you. I hope you all have a wonderful rest of your week. You are all in my prayers! Stay healthy and safe!

In Christ's Peace,  
Georgann Azzalina  
Coordinator of Religious Education