

Saint Raymond of Peñafort Religious Education

Mission Statement: *To teach the truths of the Faith, as taught by Jesus Christ and reiterated through the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, in such a manner as to instill in those learning a knowledge of Christ, so that they may better grow in their love of God and gain eternal life.*

Dear Parents,

We would like to say how pleased we are to welcome you and your child to the religious education year. Classes will begin the week of **September 11, 2011** and continue until **May, 2012** (end date will be determined by snow days). Calendars for the school year will be sent out in a confirmation letter in August.

The Church emphasizes that parents are the primary educators of their children, especially in the Faith. To help you in this task, we will continue to use the Faith and Life Series by Ignatius Press and supplement it with the Bible, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and other materials. We ask that parents review the work covered in class each week.

If your child is absent from class, please contact the catechist so that any missing work can be completed. Children should be fever free at least 24 hours before bringing them to class; if you suspect that your child may be sick, please keep them home to prevent spreading germs.

Although your child may not receive homework each week, we would like the children to understand that studying the Faith is just as important as studying mathematics or science, as going to lacrosse practice, or as saying "please and thank you". (*What would you do if your child's coach asked them to memorize rules and plays for the team?*) Being a faithful member of the Church should be more than a "once a week" event, recognizing that God is a part of everyday and everything. Families should pray together, attend Mass, and receive the sacraments regularly. (*Imagine signing up your child for soccer and only taking them to the games and not the practices or vice versa.*)

The safety of your child is a concern for all who volunteer in the program. All adult volunteers complete the requirements laid out by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops by attending a child protection seminar and completing a background check. Students in grades 1-12 take part each year in a lesson required by the diocese called "Formation in Christian Chastity". Information (including lesson plans) is available on the diocesan website and a permission form must be signed by the parents during registration (please see the back of the registration form). We ask that parents escort their child into the building each week before leaving the church property to ensure that a compliant adult is present. Too many children have been left on the premises unattended, and although it may seem safe, there are too many hidden dangers in our area (www.familywatchdog.us).

Information throughout the year will be sent out by the teachers, religious education office, printed in the bulletin, and posted on the website. We ask that parents ensure a clear line of communication with the catechists and office by updating any information on the registration throughout the school year.

We look forward to a successful and blessed year.

Maria Ammirati