

St. Barbara Religious Formation
111 Raymaley Rd.
Harrison City, PA 15636
(724) 744-4885

July 25, 2011

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2011-2012 Religious Formation Program. Religious Formation begins in the home and is centered in our gathering for Sunday Eucharist. We will be offering our **Parish Based** on site program for children in grades Preschool thru 12.

This year in an effort to plan early for teachers, materials and programs, all families are asked to register for the Formation Program by **Friday, August 19**. This deadline is imperative! If your registration is received after August 19 and we are in need of teachers, you may be asked to be the Catechist for your child's class.

Enclosed you will find a Registration/Volunteer Form and the 2011-2012 Formation Calendar. **We ask that you read all the information below prior to filling out your registration form. Only one registration form per family is required.**

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

The Preschool/Kindergarten program will be offered during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday morning in the classroom area. **Preschool** is open to children who are **age four by September 1, 2011**. **Kindergarten** is open to children who are **age five by September 1, 2011**. Opening session will be **Sunday, October 9**. We have scheduled certain Sundays off so the children are able to experience Sunday Eucharist with their family.

ELEMENTARY/UPPER ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

The Elementary/Upper Elementary program will use the textbook series entitled "*Faith First*". Students will receive a textbook and folder which they are to bring with them to each session. We will not be covering the entire book during our sessions. Each session begins with the children gathering in Church and concludes in Church with a closing prayer service. Our priests will also be involved in the sessions. Beside their textbook the children will be using a Bible in class.

ELEMENTARY/UPPER ELEMENTARY - GRADES 1 THROUGH 5

The catechetical program for Grades 1 & 2 and 3, 4 & 5 will be offered on alternating **Saturday** mornings from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. By accommodating all first and second graders on one Saturday and all third, fourth and fifth graders on another Saturday helps to enrich our program, consolidate resources and create less duplication. **Parents please refer to the calendar for any parent sessions at which you are to be present.** There will also be several additional occasions throughout the year that we will be inviting parents to attend. We will notify you of these sessions. **Opening sessions along with parent orientations are as follows:**

- **Grade 1 & 2 – Parent Orientation – Saturday, September 17 – 9:30 -10:30 a.m. (Parents Only)**
- **Grade 3, 4 & 5 – Parent Orientation – Saturday, September 24 – 9:30-10:30 a.m. (Parents Only)**
- **Grade 1 & 2 Opening Session – Saturday, October 1– 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- **Grade 3, 4 & 5 Opening Session – Saturday, October 8– 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Formal preparation for Sacraments is a process beginning with children attending Formation in Grade 1. Children 7 years of age (usually grade 2) will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

A separate letter will be sent to parents of children who are eligible to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist this year explaining the details and schedule of the Sacramental Prep program. In addition to the Sacramental Prep parent/child sessions, children **must also** be registered in the Formation program or Catholic School.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will not be celebrated here at St. Barbara again until 2013. However, children who will be eligible to receive in 2013, (*those children entering grade 3 who have made First Eucharist*) must continue to attend the Formation program or Catholic school in order to be eligible for Confirmation.

JR/SR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

Information regarding our Youth Ministry program is included separately.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

We offer Children's Liturgy for our younger children during the 5:30 p.m. & 10:30 a.m. Mass. We are in need of volunteers as leaders during Sunday Mass. If you are willing to share your time and talent, please indicate on the volunteer assistance form or call the Formation office. Training will be available. Children's Liturgy will continue to be offered at masses based on the availability of leaders.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

The success of our programs depends entirely upon people's willingness to volunteer. We ask for your help! The registration form includes a **Volunteer Assistance Section** in which we invite and encourage you to help out in some way, or feel free to call the Formation office.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS - Please read completely & carefully.

All families participating in any of the Catechetical Formation Programs are asked to complete the enclosed registration form. Please return the **Registration Form**, along with **registration fee** either by mail or personally dropping it off at the Formation/Parish office by **Friday, August 19**. (*Do Not return your registration via the Sunday Collection.*) **NO** child will be denied religious formation because the family is financially unable to contribute. **Do Not** hold your registrations due to the inability to pay at present time.

Please keep the enclosed Formation Calendar in a convenient place for your reference throughout the year.

We ask all families to provide us with an e-mail address. Your e-mail is imperative, as it will be our main source to contact you regarding information on program updates, schedule changes, resource materials, etc. in an effort to save on mailing costs. Also be sure to check the Parish website for Formation program information updates, changes, etc. throughout the year. If you do not have an e-mail or choose not to provide us with one, you will need to check the Sunday bulletin or parish website for all formation updates and information.