



AUGUST, 2017 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back, RE families! I know that you're eager to get started because the phone is ringing off the hook and emails are coming fast and furious. This first newsletter is packed with quick, concise info, so fasten your seatbelts and let's get started!

This mailing contains:

* *Calendar with class schedules.*

* *Consent Form A, one per student is due opening day. If you've not handed it in, they are in this mailing as well as any Sacramento registration forms, payments, etc. No forms in packet? I have your copy for this year. One index card per student. Please double check all info on card and hand in to catechist on the first day of class.*

Important start-up info:

- **Classes open on September 10 & 12. All parents and students should report for class. Sunday at 9:00 am; Tuesday at 5pm. All parents need to stick around, because class will be dismissed as soon as the parent meeting is over. YES, students need to be here first day! (If you have a 9th grader enrolled for Confirmation, your orientation is Sept 17; classes begin Oct 1, in the Social Room.)**
- **Blessing of Backpacks at all Masses Sept. 9 & 10. Bring your backpack for a special start of school blessing. Prayer cards with a morning prayer for students will be distributed to all school students.**
- **SMOS Religious Education Handbook is on the parish website, RE page. Please review for detailed info regarding class times and any important FAQs.**

Other news to share: Altar Servers Needed! Any parishioner Grade 6 or older are invited to join the important ministry of altar serving. The St. Margaret of Scotland altar server ministry is seeking new members to join us this Fall. The number of boys and girls serving is lower than in years past, so we encourage all those interested to participate in this important ministry. Training is scheduled for Sunday, September 24, at 6:30 pm. A parent should stay briefly to provide contact info and mass time preferences. If your child is interested in serving, but you are unable to attend training on this date, please contact Dave Carey. The training session is required prior to being placed on the schedule. For more information, please contact Dave or Lisa Carey (phone: [302-738-9530](tel:302-738-9530), e-mail davecarey7326@gmail.com) or Suzanne Kirk at family.kirk@gmail.com . Thank you.

Calling All Cub Scouts! SMOS has a Cub Pack, and they'd love for you to join them. For boys in Grades 1 – 5 (7-10 yrs old). If you are interested in learning more or joining, contact Angie Darsney at scoutpack283-smos@gmail.com. Boy Scouts – this one's for you: Boy Scouting is for boys who are at least 11 and have completed grade 5. Troop 283 is here at SMOS. Anyone interested or having questions should contact Rob Szczerba at rob129home@gmail.com.

Family Activities Committee – *Last year was such a huge success, we've added some new activities for SMOS families this year. Please check out the reverse side of this newsletter for the 2017-18 list of dates and events.*

We are Called to Serve – *Yes, we are; by virtue of our Baptism. I'd love for us to establish a committee of parents who would be willing to help coordinate and find simple, meaningful service projects for our RE families to do throughout the year. Last year's survey showed that this was the #2 thing that you'd like to see us start within our program. Please contact me if you are interested.*



at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish

Mark your calendars for these upcoming parish family activities!

Here are some things that our parish Family Activities Committee has planned for the upcoming year. Make note on whatever device you keep your calendar of special events, and watch the bulletin for more details as time draws closer. Who knows – we may even be able to find more ways to help our parish families celebrate our Catholic faith, whether we are gathered here at church, are gathered in our homes with family, or if we are serving others in the community. Try to make time to come join us!

Second & Fourth Friday evening of the month – 7th & 8th grade parishioners are invited to join us for Jr. High Youth Ministry gatherings. 6:30 – 8:00 pm in Social Room. Contact Mrs. Romano for more info.

Sunday, September 9 & 10 – Backpack Blessings – Students are invited to bring their backpack to be blessed at Mass. All students will receive a prayer card to help them start their school day each morning.

Friday, October 27 – Family Halloween Celebration – Watch the bulletin for more info regarding this fun-filled night for our young families.

November 11,12,13 – Parish Mission – Fr. Ed Ogden, OSFS, pastor of St. Thomas More Oratory at U of D will be with us for all weekend Masses and at 7pm Mass on Monday evening to lead us in a parish mission – a time of prayer, instruction, and reflection. He will help us not only get ready to celebrate the Nov. 16 feast day of our parish patron, St. Margaret of Scotland, but also to help us get ready for Advent.

Saturday, December 16 – Breakfast in Bethlehem – 9:00am – Noon: Breakfast, activities, and crafts to help our families celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent and get ready for Christmas. (Santa even stops by!) **and then..**

Sunday, December 17 – Bambinelli Sunday – Families bring the Baby Jesus figure from their Nativity Set to all Sunday Masses to be blessed on this Third Sunday of Advent. An Italian tradition, but a very nice way for families to remember why we celebrate this holy season.

Friday, February 9 – Family Mardi Gras celebration – Lent begins on February 14 next year (Easter is April 1). This evening helps young families prepare for the holy season of Lent, which helps us to more fully celebrate the glory of Easter.

Saturday, March 24 – SMOS Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Activities – The Easter Egg hunt is for all ages with categories for toddlers, preschoolers, primary grade children, and middle school. Inside we have games and activities to help families enter into Holy Week and the joy of Easter Sunday.