



A Prayer for the New Year

*Remember us, O God;
from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.
Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ.
You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.
Amen.*

Happy New Year! As we look ahead to all that 2018 holds for us, be assured of our wishes for abundant blessings to you and your families! The years seem to come more quickly as time goes on, doesn't it? We live in an ever-changing world and it gets harder to keep up with the changes. My prayer is that this New Year brings the wisdom and grace needed to keep up with the changes while staying true to who we are as people of faith.



BAD WEATHER FORECAST?

*Don't forget to make sure your subscription to the Remind Notification System is current. Text 81010. At the @ enter your class code: Sunday RE: **sunday2014** , Tuesday RE: **smostues** , Confirmation: **smoscon** , First Eucharist: **smosfe** You can also go online to www.remind.com/join, follow the same directions at the @ symbol. I also use this site for important reminders, notifications, etc. This is the first way you will be informed of cancellations – even before I put it on the radio (WSTW Snowatch) or the parish website. Please remember that we have RE families from 5 school districts as well as private schools and do our best to take everyone into consideration. If class is not cancelled but conditions are poor in your area, always err on the side of safety and common sense, please!*

IMPORTANT DATES

January

14 & 16 *YES, there IS RE Class today! Progress Report envelopes distributed to families*
28/30 *Signed Progress Reports AND envelopes due back to Mrs. Romano*
29 *First Eucharist Meeting #1, 6:30 pm in church; parent and candidate attend*

February

9 *Mardi Gras Family Celebration 6:30 – 8 pm; Social Room*
14 *Ash Wednesday, Lent begins. Mass at 8:30 am, 7 pm; 12:30pm prayer with ashes*
Fridays in Lent *Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm in church*
18 *NO CLASS – President's Weekend.*
20 *Family Stations of the Cross, grades K – 4; 5:30 pm in church ALL RE families invited to attend*
25,27 *First Eucharist book turn in with chapters 1,2,3,4 completed*

March

6 & 8 *RE Registration packets for 2018 -19 year go home and are due March 20/22*
10 *First Eucharist Retreat 9:30 am – 12:30 pm in Church/Social Room Parent & Candidate to attend*
20 *Family Stations of the Cross, Grades 5 – 8; 5:30 pm in church. ALL RE families invited to attend*
25, 27 *NO CLASS – Holy Week (schedule of services will be sent home in mid-Lent)*



Important Notice:

***PARKING LOT MANNERS MATTER!
SAFETY FIRST, NO MATTER WHAT!***

It has been brought to my attention recently that we are experiencing some unsafe issues and practices with regard to drop off and pick up of RE students. From what I am being told, not only student safety, but vehicle safety is being compromised. Part of this is my fault because I am in the building well before and after class, so I don't see how things happen. These issues have not been mentioned to me so specifically until recently.

For everyone's safety and peace of mind, please follow these requests:

At Drop Off:

- If you drop students off at the curb, you must pull up as far to the end of the block past the building as possible. Students should only exit the curb-side of your vehicle if at all possible.
- Students younger than Grade 4 should be escorted into the building. Please use a parking space.
- All students should be escorted to the building, especially when it is dusk, dark, or in bad weather.

At Pick Up:

- **ALL** students must be signed out, and only by someone age 18 or older.
- Parents, please sign your student out at their table and stay there to collect your students. They are not to leave the table until parents arrive at their table and have signed them out.
- Students should be escorted from the building and stay with the adult who has signed them out.
- NO darting and running in the parking lot, especially out from between cars.
- Please **DO NOT** park along the curb if there are empty parking spots. If all parking spots are full, please pull up along the curb as far as the end of the block at the end of the building.
- Driveway is never to be blocked; there must always remain clear and substantial space for other cars to pass, from the entrance to the property, **AROUND THE PLAYGROUND**, and all the way up the block. This is especially important on Sunday morning, as it is Mass time. This is also an emergency vehicle through-way.

If it is Sunday morning and you are picking up your student for 10:30 Mass, please strongly consider parking in the church parking lot and walking over to collect your RE students. This will greatly help at dismissal.

I do not ever leave the building until all students have been signed out and picked up. If you arrive late, please follow the above instructions and walk in to the building.

I know that this sounds very specific, but the safety of not only our students, but the people who drive them is being compromised on a weekly basis. We ask that you please be respectful of the safety of all of our parishioners and their families.

OUR LADY OF THE HIGHWAYS, PRAY FOR US!