



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

602 EVERGLADE DRIVE ♦ MADISON ♦ WISCONSIN ♦ 53717 ♦ (608)833-2606

Religious Education Program 2017-2018

August 4, 2017

Dear Parent(s),

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" Mt. 28: 19

We are excited to share with you GREAT NEWS about our Religious Education Program! Both of our Elementary and Middle School/High School programs are shifting to new methods of evangelization and catechesis! This year we will continue focusing on teachings on holiness and discipleship in order to create lovers of Christ who are sent out to make disciples of all nations. Our focus will be to help the students know and love God in order for them to become Disciples of Christ. Please read on to check out the new changes for our programs.

Elementary Program Update!

This year our Elementary Program will follow a new method of catechesis, one that is focused on evangelization through an experience of listening and responding. This experience will happen throughout a group of speakers, who know and live their faith to the fullest! Each week we will have a speaker who will introduce students to Catholic teachings in light of the New Evangelization and then will allow students to ponder and respond through small group breakout sessions. This means that we will be moving away from classroom-based instruction into small groups sharing. Our line-up of speakers are not only impressive speakers but also creative and motivational examples of how to live the Catholic faith. The speakers, together with our group facilitators, will help our students enter into a relationship with Christ.

Please note: If your child is going into 1st grade this Fall, they will need to be registered in 1st grade catechesis this year in order to prepare for their First Reconciliation and First Communion when they enter 2nd grade, otherwise they will need to wait another year. These two sacraments are offered in the child's 2nd year of Religious Education.

Middle School/High School Update!

Much like the elementary program, the middle school program is moving to Edge. Edge will start off with all middle school students together for a large group gathering with an activity and talk by a core team member. The talk will have a personal element and will also have a Catholic teaching. After the talk and a snack, students will break up into small groups, sorted by grade and gender to discuss what they learned and how it will affect their lives. The class will end with everyone gathering in prayer together. Edge will be very interactive and social while staying faith-based. Confirmation classes for students (9th grade or older) will continue to be about sharing the faith and diving into what Confirmation means.

(OVER)

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.



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Finally, please mark your calendars! On August 27th, we will have our **Registration Celebration** after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. You can turn in your registration forms and your child(ren) can enjoy some delicious ice cream! If you turn in your Registration Form by September 5th, you will pay the discounted fee of \$90. Registration Forms received after September 5th, will pay the full amount of \$115 plus any additional fees for Sacramental Preparation. Please make checks payable to: **St. Thomas Aquinas Parish**, memo RE Program. If you cannot make our Registration Celebration on August 27th, you may drop off the Registration Form at our RE office or inside the box placed in the gathering area by September 5th. In order to receive the discounted fee, we only need the **Registration Form** before September 5th. The fees can be paid at any time.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in our program as a group facilitator, please contact us at lorianne@stamadison.org and dominick@stamadison.org or at (608) 833-2606.

Peace,

Lorianne Aubut
Coordinator of Elementary R.E. Program

Dom Meyer
Coordinator of Middle & High School R.E. Program

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