

ST. ROSE OF LIMA PARISH
Religious Education Office
38 Church Hill Rd. Newtown, CT 06470
(203) 426-2333



September 17, 2009

Dear Parents of Seventh Graders,

As one season comes to a close, so does another begin! We hope your family had a wonderful summer with many warm, bright mornings and cool, comfortable evenings with lots of memorable family times in between! As we round out our summer, let us give thanks to God for each new day He brings us!

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year and the beginning of your child's Confirmation Preparation program! As you begin these next two years preparing your child for the final Sacrament of Initiation, we want to thank you for taking the initiative in being the primary spiritual leaders of your family. It is through your example and support that your child will soon be confirmed as an active participant in the Catholic Church. With prayerful assistance we will work together to bring ourselves and our children closer to the life of Jesus Christ.

This year the students learn about the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ through our text, "Christ Our Life: Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life." He will speak to us through our study of the New Testament, and we will witness Him in the unique interactions between children, catechists, and parents.

Jesus, The Way – A foremost focus this year is the students' deeper understanding of Jesus as a means of strengthening their relationship with God and how they can best respond to their own call to walk in His Way.

Jesus, The Truth – They will study Christ's love and teachings to live the truth in love. They will study morality as given in the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Beatitudes, and they will learn to form their consciences according to Christ's values, which are not necessarily those of the world.

Jesus, The Life – The students will study the death and resurrection of Jesus as the source of eternal life for all. They see that the Holy Spirit guards and strengthens them as they join in our faith community.

We will also be learning how we can "Proclaim the Word of God" (this year's catechetical theme,) not just by what we say, but what we do; asking ourselves "what is my personal response to the Word of God? How can I improve?" We will study and hear from our classmates different approaches to proclaiming God's Word though the essays we will be writing and sharing about the Saints.

As primary spiritual leaders, parents have the unique opportunity and ability to make these next two years an incredible journey of faith for your child. One powerful example of God's love and your own faith commitment as parents, is to make these next two years of religious formation a priority in your family; encourage and support your child with your participation, partake fully and enthusiastically in our preparation programs. Stressing the importance of Mass attendance – to receive Christ in Eucharist, Word and Community -- hearing of Jesus' earthly ministries, living a Christian life -- these are the foundations of our Catholic faith and the inspiration for our lives.

Enclosed with this letter is the 7th grade event calendar for your reference and planning purposes. Please note that **classes begin on Sunday, September 20th** with parent meetings taking place each session in the gathering hall. The last 15 minutes of the first class is reserved for parents to visit the classroom, meet the catechist and join in the closing prayer. Another great example of your commitment to your child and the program is to be there in the classroom regardless of how embarrassed your child says they feel! For families who are new to the St. Rose Religious Education Program, we have created a program to discuss the policies and procedures for our new families. This discussion entitled "**Religious Education 101,**" will take place on **September 28th at**

7:00 pm in the gathering hall. This is a requirement for all new families and we recommend that Sacramental parents (grades 2-7-8) also attend, as policies for reception of First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be more strictly enforced. Our first get together for students and families will be the **All Saint's Day Instructional/Enrollment Mass** on **Sunday, November 1st** from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm. We will learn more about what the Mass is all about, why we do what we do, and then receive our enrollment packets which contain assignments and certificate requirements needed for Confirmation. This is a very informative evening and everyone's attendance is expected.

As a reminder that Christ came to serve and encourages us to do the same, we require that 7th graders begin their life of service to others by contributing a minimum of ten hours to those in need within our community. Service hours obtained after July 1, 2009 are acceptable. Use the enclosed service log to record your hours. More information on Community Service will be distributed in the enrollment packets at the November 1st Mass.

Also enclosed with this mailing is a form outlining the guidelines for the All Saints' Day project. Please encourage your child to take this assignment seriously and choose a saint that he or she will emulate and whose name will be chosen for Confirmation. This exercise will take prayerful thought and research. Please read through the guidelines carefully, as the **class projects will be completed in class the week of October 18th**.

Some other events during the year include: A **Sacramental Parent Night** for all 2nd, 7th, & 8th grade parents on **October 12th** with Fr. Jim Sabak; Detective Stephen McDonald will be back for his presentation on "**Social Justice and Forgiveness**" on **February 16th**; and a **Parish Retreat** from **March 6th – March 10th**, (Sacramental parents required to attend on Monday, March 8.) Please check the enclosed 7th Grade calendar and be sure to write the dates on your home &/or office calendar. Your attendance at these community spiritual formation events is essential!

To aid parishioners of St. Rose of Lima on their journey to heaven, we have made adult formation a primary focus for this year. Please see the attached flyer for dates, times, and location of events geared just for our adult membership. As parents of a Sacramental student, you are strongly encouraged to attend some of these events.

You are in our prayers as you continually take an active role in your child's faith journey. The Religious Education Office and our catechists are committed to you and your children. May our faith experiences during this Sacramental Prep year bring us all closer to Christ! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at anytime. The St Rose web site offers up-to-date calendars, event schedules, and grade level curriculums – check it out at www.strosechurch.com. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Have a wonderful day and God bless!

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"This good Saviour is so filled with love that he seeks us everywhere" St. John Vianney

ST. ROSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2009-2010 7th GRADE STUDENT CALENDAR

- September 20 **Catechetical Sunday**
Classes begin. Families blessed during all Masses this weekend.
- September 20-23 **Parent meetings in Gathering Hall during all class sessions.**
Discussion of new 2009-2010 catechetical theme.
Parents visit classes for last 15 minutes of class time
- September 28 **No Classes - Yom Kippur – Schools Closed**
- September 28 **Religious Education 101**
7:00 pm – St. Rose School - Gathering Hall
Informative session for all parents of new Religious Education students.
All new parents are required to attend.
- October 11-12 **Columbus Day Weekend – Classes in Session**
- October 11-13 **7th Grade – All Saint’s Day Project Distribution**
- October 12 **Sacramental Parent Night for all 2nd, 7th & 8th grade parents & all Catechists**
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, St. Rose School - Gathering Hall Fr. Jim Sabak
Sacraments – What are they? What do they do? Why are they important to me & my family?
- October 17-18 **Social Concerns Clothing Drive**
All Masses. Community Service Hours Opportunity
- October 18-20 **7th Grade All Saints Day Class Projects**
During all class times
- November 1 **7th Grade All Saints Day - Instructional Mass and Confirmation Prep Enrollment**
5:00 – 6:30 pm, Church, Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In
Confirmation Prep Packets distributed at this time
7th grade students will have class this week. This Mass counts as Sunday obligation
- November 3 **No Classes – Election Day**
- November 11 **Veteran’s Day – Classes in Session**
- November 14-15 **Social Concerns Food Drive**
During all Masses. Community Service opportunity each day
- November 25 **No Classes – Thanksgiving Holiday**
Please Note: There will be classes on Sunday 11/29. Beginning of Advent.
- November 30-
December 2 **Advent Reconciliation**
Grades 3 - 4 report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school,
Grades 5-6 report directly to class, pick up at church
Grade 7, report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school.
Grade 8, report directly to class, pick up at school.
(Sunday classes and Home Schooled students welcome at any session)
- December 20 **7th and 8th Grade Advent Mass**
5:00 – 6:15 pm, report to church, Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In
ALL 7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND THIS EVENING
NO OTHER 7TH & 8TH GRADE CLASSES THIS WEEK This Mass counts as Sunday obligation

- December 24 - 31 **No Classes – Christmas Vacation!**
Classes resume on January 3rd.
- January 17-18 **No Classes – Martin Luther King Holiday**
- January 31-
February 2 **7th Grade – God’s Plan for Human Sexuality Talks**
Talks given during class times from our St. Rose Senior Youth Group members.
- February 14-15 **No Classes – President’s Weekend**
- February 16 **7th Grade Social Justice and Forgiveness Witness Talk with Detective Steven McDonald & Prayer Service for Life for Students and Parents**
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Church -- ALL 7th Grade Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In.
- February 22 - 24 **Lenten Reconciliation During Class Times**
Grades 3 - 4 report directly to class, pick up at church (Grade 2 if time allows)
Grades 5-6 report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school,
Grade 7, report directly to class, pick up at school
Grade 8, report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school.
(Sunday classes and Home Schooled students welcome at any session)
- March 14 **Daylight Savings Time**
Spring ahead! Move clocks forward one hour.
- March 20-27 **Social Concerns Lenten Food Drive**
All Masses. Community Service Hours opportunity
- April 4 **No Classes – Happy Easter!**
- April 5-7 **Registration for Religious Education 2010-2011**
During all class times in Gathering Hall; Extremely important that all attend!
All Grade Level Coordinators and Catechist volunteers needed!
- April 11 **Registration for Religious Education 2010-2011**
8:30 am – 1:30 pm in Gathering Hall; Extremely important that all attend!
All Grade Level Coordinators and Catechist volunteers needed!
- April 18 – 21 **No Classes! Spring Break** Enjoy!
- April 25 **Classes Resume**
- May 2 **Registration for Religious Education 2010-2011**
8:30 am – 1:30pm at Religious Education Office; Hurry – Before 5/31Late Fee!
Grade Level Coordinators and Catechist volunteers needed!
- May 2 **7th & 8th Grade End of Year Mass**
5:00-6:00 pm All Students and Parents, Report directly to Church, sit with class
6:00-8:30 pm 8th grade students only report to Gathering Hall for Youth Group Celebration.
Please Note – No regularly scheduled 7th/8th grade classes this week. Sunday students encouraged to attend this Mass. This Mass counts as Sunday obligation
- June 29 –
July 3 **Carnival**
- July 26-30 **Vacation Bible School**
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

ST. ROSE OF LIMA RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
All Saint's Day Project
2009-2010

I CHOOSE MY NAME, MY PATRON

“We are called, each by name”

In preparation for Confirmation, you have an opportunity to choose a name that will make a statement about your Catholic identity. You may choose to use your Baptismal name – symbolic of the connection between Baptism and Confirmation -- or a saint's name that has some special meaning for you. It is important to research the saint who you are choosing as your patron saint in order to better understand what made that person so special to God and the Catholic Church. You might choose the name of a saint who you admire and represents the type of Christian you would like to become.

As part of your home preparation you are asked to research and write a one-page history of your saint using the criteria below. During class time, you will then create a collage portrait of your saint using magazine clippings. Craft paper and supplies will be available during class - *you need to come prepared* with your typed saint history and an idea of how your saint should be decorated using the magazine clippings, (old magazines would be appreciated – drop off at Religious Education office or have child bring to first day of class - Thanks!) **Please use the following outline to complete your research and include each item in your history:**

- 1) Who is your saint?
- 2) When and where did he/she live?
- 3) What was their life like – How did they follow God's will in their life?
- 4) How (what special thing did he/she do) and when did they become a saint?
- 5) What qualities do you admire in your saint?
- 6) How can you model your life to be more like your saint?
- 7) Why did you choose this saint?

In Addition:

- Typed history of saint due in class: **10/18 through 10/20**. Please include your name and catechist.
- Each student will create his/her portrait **during normal class times**.
- All portraits with histories will be displayed throughout the Church for viewing by our parishioners at the **All Saints day, Instructional/Enrollment Mass on Sunday, 11/1 at 5:00 pm**. All 7th graders and families should plan on attending this Mass. This Mass counts as your Sunday obligation.
- Any 7th grade student wanting to participate at Mass by reading, being a gift bearer, greeter or altar server should notify their catechist.
- Service opportunity available on **Friday, 10/30 from 2:30 – 4:30 pm** to help with the display of saint portraits in the church. Call R.E. office at 426-2333, ext. 4 as space is limited!

The overall objective for this project is to help the students APPRECIATE the various CONTRIBUTIONS made by saints to our Catholic faith and the RELEVANCE of choosing a saint they ADMIRE. It is also intended to acquaint students with the life of the saint that he or she has chosen to IMITATE, and whose name they will EMBRACE as their own at Confirmation.

SEVENTH GRADE FAITH- IN- ACTION
PERSONAL SERVICE LOG – 2009/2010
Due the week of March 21, 2010

Student Name _____

(Please Print)

Jesus said, “Here I am among you as the one who serves.” Luke 22:27

Come, blessed of my Father,
 take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry
 and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me
 in; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me... Amen I say to you, as long as you did this
 for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me. *Matthew*
25:34-40

FAITH-IN-ACTION PLEDGE: I pray that while I am preparing for full membership
 in the Church, I will become more aware and understanding of the truth that our
 Church is a servant community following in the footsteps of its founder, Jesus Christ.
 While reaching out to others in need, I will ask Jesus Christ to be present and work
 through me to help them. I pledge to *continue* to perform service to those in my
 community *beginning* with these 10 hours.

Date	Number of Hours	Type of Service Performed	Signature of Service Recipient

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Adult Formation Events
*****Important for Sacramental Parents*****

<u>Date/Time</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
9/20, 4:00 pm Church	Celebration of Marriage & Family	Fr. John Waiss
10/12, 7:00 pm Gathering Hall	Sacraments-What are they? What do they do? Why are they important to me?***	Fr. Jim Sabak
10/15, 7:00 pm Msgr. Conroy Room	A Conversation w/ non- Catholic Members of the St. Rose Family	Deacon Tom Curran
10/17, 9:00 am Field Trip to Wisdom House	Wisdom, Spirituality & Creation (leaves St. Rose @ 8:00 am)	Patricia Torre
10/25, 12:00 pm Church	The Grandeur of the Catholic Church	Peter Keeft
11/7, 9:00 am Field Trip to Wisdom House	Holy Spirit & Ecology (leaves St. Rose @ 8:00 am)	Elizabeth Dreyer
11/12, 7:00 pm Gathering Hall	Charity and Truth	Bishop Lori
11/15, 4:00 pm Church	From Heathen to Priest: A Personal Journey	Fr. Reggie Norman
12/5, 9:00 am Field Trip to Wisdom House	Advent Retreat Day (leaves St. Rose @ 8:00 am)	Fr. William Considine
12/13, 4:00 pm Church	Advent Talk	Deacon Don Naiman
1/14, 7:00 pm Gathering Hall	Reconciliation Prep Night One-on-One w/ Fr. Jim***	Fr. Jim Sabak

2/25, 9:00 am
Church

Spiritual Journey Retreat

3/6-10
Church

Parish Retreat
Check Mass bulletin for further details

3/8, 7:00 pm
Church

*Parish Retreat - Sacraments****

3/25, 7:00 pm
Gathering Hall

The Meaning Behind our
Catholic Rituals, Symbols
*& Customs****

Fr. Jim Sabak

3/25, 7:00 pm
Msgr. Conroy Room

Our Roots in the Seder Meal

Deacon Tom Curran

For further details, check out the parish website, www.strosechurch.org