

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

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Dear CCD Families

We are excited to announce some wonderful changes to our Religious Education Program based on feedback of you who responded to our survey and came to the group meetings. **It is very important that you read the following message**, so that you will be well informed. Here are some of our great changes:

Communications: You loved our calendars, but felt there was a lack in communications. So we have added a new way of communicating with our families, through a closed audience social media app. called **BLOOMZ!** We will now be able to share with you: weekly activities, events, volunteer opportunities, homework assignments, alerts, and more. You will also be able to directly contact your child's teacher, other parents, and of course, Mrs. DiVenuto and Miss Michelle. The app. is free and available for mobile devices as well as computers. Look for sign up information in your e-mail and at registration.

Quality vs. quantity: You suggested more family oriented, and quality vs/quantity time. Agreed! Religious Education will begin again **Saturday, Sept. 10th**, with a special All-Family Day at **Camp Holy Cross in Goshen!** This is great news! Not only will we spend the day involved in quality Religious Ed, super fun outdoor activities, and Mass with the Bishop, but **it will be the ONLY scheduled Religious Education day for all of September.** This gives our families time to get back into the school routine before our regularly scheduled CCD classes begin **October 16th at 9am!** That's right! We also have a **NEW START TIME** of **9am** and an end time of **10:20am**. This gives children and teachers more time for a quality class, and the new 10:20am release time gives families a few more minutes to get to Mass at 10:30, the **most important part** of your child's religious education. There will also be new opportunities for families to get involved with our new Lenten Family Day later in March, and many wonderful volunteer times throughout the year!

Organization: Each year we are excited to greet our returning students and to welcome shining new faces to our program. And as you know, it's very difficult to do so when the auditorium is so hectic. Volunteer, Mrs. Rose Costa, will now organize you, parents, to staff the attendance table each week and direct our children to their groups. This along with several other volunteer opportunities, will help our families stay connected and committed to our beautiful faith and church community. Our program cannot run smoothly without you, and our Focus Group Parents recognized that need. So, starting this year, each family will be responsible for volunteering 3 hours of time during the CCD year. Mrs. Costa will organize volunteer hours. From chaperoning to costuming, organizing potlucks, to baking, we have a place for you! Look for volunteer information coming soon!

Training: If you are interested in taking a more active role in our Religious Education program, we invite you to happily join us for our training dates. **NO EXPERIENCE** is needed to become a CCD teacher, **YOU** can do this! we will train you! September 1st from 6pm to 9:30pm, join Christine and Michelle in the lower level of OLMC for Practical Catechetical and Child Protection Training. Then, diocesan catechetical training will be held Sept. 17th at Holy Name in Springfield from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. (pre-registration is required) There will also be a diocesan training for all age groups at the "Catechist Commissioning" at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Westfield, on Oct. 2nd from 2pm to 5pm. (pre-registration is required) These trainings are required for all of our CCD teachers and volunteers.

Registration: Registration dates are as follows:

Sept. 10th at the Camp Holy Cross Event

Sun. Sept. 18th in the Bertoni Room, between morning Masses at 9:30am

Oct. 1st at the Taste of Italy, 4:30– close. Look for our table!

You may also print forms, ONE PER CHILD, on our website www.olmcspringfield.org and mail them to the rectory along with check made out to OLMC or bring them with you to the registration dates.

Registration Fees: Grades 1, 3, 4, &5, \$40 (full price for 1st and 2nd child, \$15 each additional child (1,3,4,5)

Grade 2 (1st Holy Communion Year) \$50

Grades 6-10 \$60 (includes Net Ministries & New Spirit Retreats, and Youth Rally), Kindergarten and Catholic School kids are Free.

Classes will meet in the gymnasium of the old Mt. Carmel School (currently South End Middle School) Please bring your children into the auditorium, and pick up your children inside the auditorium each week, unless notified otherwise. Grades 9 and 10 will meet in the lower level of the church.

Just remember: *If it's important to you, it will be important to them!* Children are very perceptive and will join you where you are emotionally. The perceptions of God and of Jesus in **your** life will become their first Christian experiences and will leave traces which last throughout life. **YOU** are the primary teachers in your child's faith development and we hope that we can continue to work cooperatively to enforce the lessons and values that you have taught at home.

We invite all parents to register their children and to think about your own unique gifts and what you can add to our faith formation program. Have you thought about becoming a catechist? (we'll train you!) A classroom aide, a program helper, a special project (s) volunteer, or something else? Tell us what you can do, and we'll find a place for you! We are gradually making changes within our program to better involve all members of the family. Please help us improve our program by giving the gift of time. We look forward to helping all our children grow in knowledge and love of Christ in His Church.

In Christ's Peace,

Mrs. Christine DiVenuto and Michelle Temple Forna
Religious Education Coordinators

Get with the spirit!

We invite all families to show their OLMC spirit and order your cool OLMC T-shirt today! It would be GREAT to show our OLMC spirit on Sept. 10th! Now, choose any color you like!

Mt. Carmel Tee Shirt Order

A Shared Youth Ministry Project **SUMMER 2015**
734-5433, or this form in the collection or mail:

Name _____
Phone _____
3/2XL \$16 Adult XL,L,M,S \$14 Youth L,M,S \$10

Try **MAROON** or **BLUE** or select a color of your choice

Size _____ how many? _____ Color _____
Size _____ how many? _____ Color _____
Size _____ how many? _____ Color _____

Payment enclosed \$ _____ OR Amount Due \$ _____
Checks to Mt. Carmel Church