

August 2, 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your children are enjoying your summer vacation! My name is Sharon Christy and I am the new Director of Evangelization for the Pastoral Region of Holy Angels and St. Anthony. I am very thrilled to be here serving you. I bring over twenty years experience to the job, and as a former active duty Air Force family, I have learned much by serving the church and her people in many dioceses in the U.S. and Europe. My concentration in my ministry has always been marriage and family. It is near and dear to my heart. Not only because of the wonderful family I have been blessed with, but because family is where God chose to make himself known in the incarnation! Family life teaches us so much about God and Faith, and that is our starting point for religious education this year.

I am happy to announce we will begin a new religious education program entitled Family of Faith for grades K-6, that helps us, as the church, better walk with you and assist you in building a family of faith in which the Catholic culture, knowledge and relationship with Christ is not only experienced and learned within the walls of the church, but also become a part of the very fiber of your home!

This program limits the time spent learning away from home to just two faith-filled and fun sessions a month, and then empowers you as parents to share two sessions at home with your children when it is convenient for you! The first session each month is on the first Wednesday of the month from 6-8 p.m. and includes dinner from 6-6:30 p.m. After dinner the children will participate in a traditional classroom program, while parents are learning about the theme for the month, sharing and learning with other parents and gaining a better understanding of their faith so they will feel comfortable with the home sharing aspects of the program.

We meet again on the 3rd Sunday of the month for family day! We begin with 9:30 a.m. Mass and then share a simple continental breakfast. Families then gather together to share what they have learned during the month and to continue in other discussions and activities with both their own families and other families gathered around them! We will be finished at approximately 12:15.

Both personally and professionally I am thrilled with the high quality of the content, the flexibility for busy families and the ability for all of us to grow in our faith! No matter where you are on your faith journey, this program will enable you to grow in your individual faith and in the lived out faith of your family at home. If you would like to see more, visit www.sophiainstitute.com/familyoffaith.

The "Junior Disciples" (grades 7-8) will follow the same schedule and are invited to come early for the meals with their parents. However, unlike the younger grades, they will meet with their teachers and peers for both sessions and will not have the family day events as they are continuing on with the Chosen curriculum. If you have a student in 7th or 8th grade only, you will not need to be present for the sessions on Wednesday or Sunday.

Finally, the pre-school program has been discontinued for this year. The numbers were very low and the children were inconsistently participating in the program. This coupled with the fact that there will be no one in the building most Sunday mornings led us to this decision. We are joyfully anticipating their presence with us in the Mass.

Attached is a copy of the schedule for the year. Registration forms are available online and at the parish office. They are due back in the office by August 28. Tuition will remain at \$100/student, but the family maximum will be capped at \$175. *Finances should never be a barrier to faith formation. If you are unable to pay before the August 28 deadline, simply return your registration right away and contact Fr. Greg for tuition assistance.*

New programs always bring lots of questions, and sometimes concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone if you would like to discuss any aspect of this program.

God's blessings!

Sharon Christy, Director of Evangelization
Holy Angels & St. Anthony Pastoral Region

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