

SS Peter & Paul Parish School of Religion Newsletter



PSR Website – www.spp.waterloo.il.us/psr.html
PSR Coordinator – anitatoth@htc.net

August 2009

“The Lord’s love for us is strong; the Lord is faithful forever. Hallelujah!”
~ Psalm 117:2

A SAD GOODBYE TO...

MSGR. THOMAS FLACH

As most of you are already aware, Msgr. Thomas Flach was assigned as the new pastor of St. Joseph’s Church in Marion, IL effective July 14th. His new address is: St. Joseph Church, 600 North Russell Street, Marion, IL 62595. Please pray for a warm welcome at his new parish!

AND A WARM WELCOME TO...

FR. OSANG IDAGBO

Also effective July 14th was Fr. Osang’s assignment as the Administrator of Ss. Peter & Paul Church of Waterloo. We are thankful that he has graciously accepted to stay on in this new role and look forward to his spiritual leadership in our parish.

FR. STAN KONIECZNY

We also have the privilege of now having an Associate Pastor at Ss. Peter & Paul with Fr. Stan Konieczny (pronounced Kon-itch-nee) joining us! We are so grateful for his ministry here at the parish and look forward to getting to know him better.

PSR REGISTRATION

For those of you who missed registration in the Spring, we will have two more opportunities to register your children for the 2009-2010 PSR year.

On Sunday, August 16th & Sunday, August 23rd we will have our registration staff in the back of church after the 9am and 10:30am Masses. All NEW students will need to bring a copy of their Baptismal Certificate to registration.

Registration Fees will remain unchanged from last year:

- 1st Student - \$100
- 2nd Student - \$ 50
- 3rd Student - \$ 25
- Four or more - No charge

PLEASE NOTE: The Late Registration penalty of \$25.00 per family will be assessed to all returning students that did not register in the Spring. (May 13th, 2009 was the deadline.)

“Youth Ministry - New Focus”

Fr. Osang & Fr. Stan have met with the Youth Ministry Commission to put attention this year on the youth of our parish. The “Youth House” off of Mill Street is being dedicated to the ministry for meetings and socials. If you have a child in the 6th – 8th Grades or High School age that would like to participate, please contact Donna Burns at burns@ai.edu to find out more details on meeting times and activities. A pancake breakfast & Cairo mission trip video are some of the things that will be focused on in August but you will be seeing some other exciting changes in the near future. Please get on board now and stay tuned!

PLAN AHEAD!!!

SEPTEMBER 9 – PSR BEGINS with a Parent/Child Meeting at 6:30p in Church. **One parent from each family must attend to sign forms & meet your child’s catechist!** Please make your calendar now and make plans to attend!

SEPTEMBER 16 – Regular PSR Classes begin for students at the following times/locations:

- 6:30p – 7:45p SPPS (Grades 1-4)
- 6:45p – 8:00p Gibault (Grades 5-8)

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Aug 16	PSR Registration in back of church after 9a & 10:30a Masses
Aug 17	PSR Advisory Board – 7p @ PPC
Aug 23	PSR Registration in back of church after 9a & 10:30a Masses
Aug 26	Catechist Curriculum Training – 6:00p SPPS Cafeteria
Sep 2	Catechist Certification Training - 6:00p
Sep 9	PSR Parent/Child Kickoff – 6:30p All grades in church.
Sep 14	PSR Advisory Board – 7p @ PPC
Sep 16	PSR Classes

Are you being called as a PSR Catechist?

There are a few requirements for being a Catechist but the most important ones are to have a willing heart and to be available on Wednesday evenings for class. Training is available. If you are interested or need more information about being a Catechist for the 2009-2010 PSR year, please contact Anita Toth at 939-3533 or anitatoth@htc.net. Thank you for your consideration!

NOTE: We have an immediate need for additional Catechists in a few remaining grades to keep the class sizes small. Please consider!

SCRIP FOR SALE!

Scrip certificates & gift cards will be available to the PSR families on most Wednesday evenings in the SPPS cafeteria. This program will benefit the PSR as well as the school with the percentage back offered from the participating retailers. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to earn us \$\$\$! For more details, please email Staci @ wittens@mac.com

SPPS LATCHKEY PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO ALL PARISH FAMILIES

The Ss. Peter & Paul Grade School Latchkey program would like to make their services available to PSR families. They offer Latchkey care to students in grades K-8 before and after school. Durham Bus Service is available with transportation to and from schools.

The Latchkey program is open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and includes breakfast; and from 2:55 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. which includes a snack and drink. The afternoon program consists of homework time for children in grades 2-8, as well as supervised free play and organized games/activities. The Latchkey director for 2009-2010 is Joannie Steibel.

The cost is as follows:

Morning Care:

First Child - \$4.00

Addl. Child/children - \$3.00 per child

Afternoon Care:

First Child - \$6.00

Addl. Child/children - \$4.00 per child

If you are interested in this service, please contact the school office at 939-7217 for registration materials.

Dear 8th Grade Parents:

Please remember that your children need to return to class on September 16th with their Confirmation books "*Confirmed in the Spirit*". They will again be using these books to finish preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation in the spring.

Also, the **Confirmation Retreat** date has been set for **Saturday, March 20th from 9a – 1p** at Gibault High School. Please mark your calendars now! (They will need to make up this retreat in another community if they cannot attend this one.) This retreat is for parents and the confirmation candidate and is being provided by the REAP team of St. Louis. Their website is: www.reapteam.org

Please check the PSR website frequently!
<http://www.spp.waterloo.il.us/psr.html>

PARISH PICNIC IS SUCCESSFUL THANKS TO YOU!!!

Many thanks to Jennifer Kretchmer (4th Grade PSR Catechist) & Staci Wittenauer (PSR Advisory Board President) who volunteered to coordinate the kids games and the dining room this year for the parish picnic.

They did a wonderful job but they couldn't have done it without all of the PSR families who volunteered to work: The Arenas', Augustines', Bedwells, Benders, Bergs, Biffars, Brands, Browns, Colemans, Finnertys, Graces, Goesslings, Huebners, Ingrams, Innis', Kowalczyks, Kosydors, Kretchmers, Kruses, Lengachers, Links, Manninos, Mechlers, Mercers, Naumans, Notters, Ratzs, Rodenbergs, Schultzs, Stirnamans, Thompsons, Villarreal, Warners & the Wittenauers. (If I've missed anyone, my apologies! We went off of the cafeteria & kids stand worker lists!)

You are all very much appreciated and have made this year's picnic a huge success for the parish! God Bless each of you for your efforts!

What Prayers Should My Child Know and By What Age?

One of the questions asked by parents is what information will be covered in the classroom and what prayers should their children know and by when?

The PSR Advisory Board worked on a document over the summer that lays out the religious knowledge and education by grade level along with the prayers that will be covered. You will find this information on our PSR website shortly and you will also be given a copy of this at the Parent/Child Kickoff on September 9th.

Please assist us by praying with your child the appropriate prayers for the year and reviewing with them the doctrines of our faith that are provided. By working together, we can assure that our efforts are successful in passing our faith down to the next generation.

"Child Protection Training"

One of the ways the Diocese of Belleville works to ensure the safety of our children is to require each catechist/helper to attend a training class so they can recognize abused children.

Another way is to educate the children directly, by grade level, on what is proper contact with others. This must be offered to every child in the PSR program and this year Catholic Social Services will be doing the training. Due to the sometimes sensitive nature of the discussion, parents have the option to have their child participate or not. This form will be offered at the September 9th parent/child kickoff and must be signed by a parent that evening. Please contact Anita Toth if you have any questions.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!

As part of our effort to "Go Green" we are trying to eliminate the need for paper to communicate during the PSR year. The best way to accomplish this is by using email to communicate to each PSR family.

Our commitment is to only email once a week to convey necessary information. Sacramental years (2nd & 8th Grades) will probably receive more emails because of the extra requirements during those years. Emails will go out on Thursday evenings or Friday mornings. Our request to you is that each family check their email once a week - preferably on Fridays or Saturdays - to get all information for the weekend and classes the following week. Thanks for your help!

NOTE: If you are receiving a paper copy of this newsletter then we do not have a working email for you. Please contact Anita Toth at 939-6426 ext 24 with a valid email address for your family. Thank you!

PSR ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Staci Wittenauer – President, Lois Thompson – Secretary, Lisa Crosson, Lynne Mitchell and Mary Shields. Anita Toth is the PSR Coordinator and a non-voting member.