Dear Elementary School Religious Education Parents,

I hope that you and your family are having a wonderful summer! The start of Elementary Religious Education is quickly approaching! If you are receiving this letter and your children attend St. Francis of Assisi Elementary or Middle School, please disregard this letter. I wanted to share a few details with you until a Coordinator of Elementary Religious Education is hired.

**Elementary Religious Education**

Elementary RE will begin on **Monday, October 9thfrom 6:15-7:30 PM in the Grand Site Elementary School.** All children attending any of our religious education programs (Elementary, Edge, LifeTeen/High School Mini classes) can be signed up on the same registration form. To compensate for materials that we will need for the year, along with snacks, and other supplies, **there is a onetime payment of $85**. **Please complete the registration form by August 28th and send/drop off at the parish office (601 N. 8th Street).**

**Masses**

Each of the different youth groups (LifeTeen, Edge, Elementary RE, Roncalli, SFA Middle School, and SFA Elementary) will plan and participate in all of the ministries for regularly scheduled masses. Two groups will be featured on the second weekend of each month, so every twice the Elementary Religious Education students will have a mass to plan and will provide the following ministries: serving, lecturing, ushering/hospitality, cantoring/music ministry, and Eucharistic ministers (Confirmed and commissioned parents**). Our masses for Elementary Religious Education will be the 10:30 a.m. mass at Grand on December 10th and March 11th.** **It is an expectation that your child and you are present for and participating in these masses.** One the registration form, all Elementary Religious Education students will be required to sign up for 1-2 ways they’d be willing to participate in these masses (e.g. serving and music ministry).

**Parent Help Needed:**

Ministry without prayer is fruitless. The greatest way we can help our teens and youth is by praying for them**. I am asking all parents/family members (and extending the invitation to our parish community) to sign-up for two weeks in which they will either spend half an hour in adoration praying for the youth (from Elementary RE through our college students), their families, and those who work with and minister to our youth or offer up the same intentions at daily mass during that week.** If we truly believe that prayer is our relationship with God and that prayer has a powerful impact, than incorporating prayer into our ministry is of the greatest necessity. You can sign up for weeks that you are able and willing to go to adoration or daily mass through Sign-up Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d48abaf2caaf49-praying>

Additionally, if you are willing and able to give of your time and gifts in any other way (such as helping as a classroom aide, substituting in a class when needed, making snacks, helping with office/clerical work, please indicate so on the registration form.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as an Elementary Religious Education Coordinator is hired! More detailed information will be available after the position has been filled and specific questions can be directed to the Elementary Coordinator at that time.

God Bless!

Elizabeth Fritsch

Coordinator of Youth Ministry