

Dear Parents,

Near the end of his life, and after founding a religious congregation with 5,000 followers spread all over the world, St. Francis of Assisi told his followers: "Let us begin, for up till now we have done little." It is up to us as parents to educate our kids in a religious and moral way. A lot of us will sit and watch and some will teach. Teaching and being involved in our parish community can be very rewarding in a spiritual and peaceful way. Don't be the one to say we have done little. Each day we can say: Let us begin! We are starting a new school year – let us begin. With God's grace and help we can accomplish great deeds.

### Tuition

We are asking a fee of \$30.00 per student, 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, \$15 for Sunday School, with a cap of \$60.00 for a family. For non-parishioners, the fee is \$40.00 per student. No one will be turned away from the program if this is a financial hardship. Please send check and registration form to St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, 19812 E. 1000<sup>th</sup> Ave., Dieterich, IL 62424. Make check payable to St. Isidore Parish. Teacher's children are FREE but we still need the registration form signed. We always need teachers!!

### Classroom Location

*Bishop Location:* PreK-K – 1<sup>st</sup> floor Religious Ed. Bldg.; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grades – 1<sup>st</sup> floor Rel. Ed. Bldg.; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Rel. Ed. Bldg.; 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> – new hall east wing; 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – new hall west wing; 9<sup>th</sup> grade – old hall basement; 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade – upstairs old hall

*Grove Location:* PreK-K – Parish Hall; 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades – Parish Hall; 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades – rectory

CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE CLASSROOMS. If a student is caught using a cell phone in class it will be taken from them and there will be a \$10.00 donation to get it back and the student's parents will be notified. NO EXCEPTIONS

### Personal Safety Training

The Office of Child and Youth Protection in Washington, DC requires safe environment training for children in religious education programs. We will be using videos during our regularly scheduled PSR classes to communicate the tips on keeping our children safe. This is REQUIRED training each year for children.

### Youth Ministry

This program is for our high school students. Many in the parish really give there all for this program. We're blessed that they've chosen this way to exercise their stewardship. The kids go canoeing, skiing, swimming, Christmas caroling just to name a few of their activities. Parents, please sign up to volunteer your time as a chaperone or to assist in some way with the program. Encourage your teenager to come to our Youth Ministry events.

### Reconciliation: Grades 3-8

The PSR classes will help train and prepare the children for the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation or penance. This education will occur during PSR class time. The reception of the sacrament, however, will not occur during class time. Fr. Bill is available for confessions on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. This is the time when people normally receive the sacrament. Ensuring that your child receives the sacrament is YOUR responsibility as his/her parent. When a child sees mother and/or father receive the sacrament, the witness value is extremely powerful.

### Reconciliation: High School

Because many teens work on Saturdays and Sundays, we will offer the high school students an opportunity to receive the sacrament during Wednesday class time.

### Times of Instruction

Class times are Wednesday evenings starting at 6:45 and concluding at 8:00 pm. The children should not arrive before 6:30 pm. They should go directly to their classrooms and stay there. Please be prompt. Pre-school and kindergarten will attend classes every other Sunday during the morning Masses.

### Traffic

There is much congestion on Wednesday evenings during the school year. Please maintain a 25' driveway in front of the Parish Center at Bishop. There will be one-way traffic entering from the east side of church and then exit on the west side. Drive SLOWLY and watch for children running to and from cars. For those students attending at Grove, parents will enter the parish center at 8:00 pm to meet their child.

### Cancellation of Classes

There is NO policy that states "If there is no school there is no religion". We have students from four (4) school districts. Please do not assume that religion is cancelled because your school district is closed. Please listen to radio stations WCRC, WXEf or WIKK for cancellation notices. The teachers will be notified by telephone.

### Rules of Absenteeism and Tardiness

If a student cannot attend class, please notify the teacher before 6:00 pm.

If the teacher is not notified in the case of the absence, the teacher will call the parents.

If there are two or more absences in a row, Fr. Bill will call the parents.

### Discipline

First offense: the teacher will give a warning.

Second offense: the teacher will notify the parents.

Third offense: the teacher, area director and CRE will meet with the parents

Fr. Bill will serve as the appeal if parents feel there is an injustice.

The parish coordinator for religious education is Rosina Esker. 217-925-5235

The area directors are: Karen Huber (217-925-5366) at Bishop and Jesse Jansen (217-821-4639) at Grove

If you have concerns you want brought to the parish level, then please work through your area director and CRE and then to your representative on the Faith Formation committee of the parish council.

Let us begin this new year with hope and confidence that our children will continue to form a good conscience and grow in their love for God and his church.