

# Guardian Angels Religious Education

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 2 April 2018

THANK YOU for supporting our young students by attending their pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 18, 2018. The attendance was awesome and the largest I have ever seen since I have been here!

There is Exciting News that I would like to share with you regarding the Guardian Angels Parish Religious Education Program. While the curriculum will remain the same, the way in which students study their weekly lessons will be changing.

Starting with the 2018-19 school year, the lessons found in the 1st through 8th grades curriculum will also be made available to students through a web-based platform. Students from grades 1-8 will be able to access their lessons from any where through the Internet prior to coming for their weekly scheduled classes. Class time will be devoted to doing more activities and discussions related to what students have studied that week via the Internet. Teachers, students, and parents will have a profitable time of engagement to have the conversations to which students look forward each week. It will also help the students who miss a class to stay on course with their peers; students will not feel alienated when they return to class after an absence.

Please look for more information regarding the new Teaching-Learning Accommodations in the Newsletters in the coming months.

### **eSCRIP/SCRIP Program**

#### **Religious Education Tuition Credit**

Back in February 2018 it was announced that you can start earning tuition credit for your child who attends any of the Religious Education programs offered at either of the churches under Guardian Angels Parish.

If you choose this option, 25% of the profit of your purchases can be applied to your child's Religious Education tuition for the 2018-19 school year. This is not limited to just parents using SCRIP; grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even friends can purchase SCRIP and request that the 25% of their purchase profits go towards a designated child.

You may also sign up to use the eSCRIP Program. With this, the cards with which you use for any shopping are registered, and whenever you use them the parish gets instant credits. You lose nothing; you rather help the parish to gain a lot of cash credits as you use the program.

SCRIP cards are available for purchase after each weekend Mass and through the Parish Office during business hours. You may also sign up for SCRIP and eSCRIP Online to begin to enjoy the benefits of augmenting the parish's income revenues.

Both the Online SCRIP and the eSCRIP programs can be accessed through the Guardian Angels Parish Website at: [guardianangelsparish.org](http://guardianangelsparish.org)

# **From the Desk of Father Emmanuel**

## **INCORPORATING A VIRTUAL PLATFORM TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **PROGRAM CURRICULUM**

There are many schools of thought about what education is about. The Collect, or the Opening Prayer of the 13<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time summarizes it all: “*O God... grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth*”. There is one thing that is invariably agreed upon by all those who are involved in developing the concept of education: each student is appropriately engaged in a likeable ambience so that with the help of a teacher and any other resources as an accommodation, the student will be able to build upon and develop a prior knowledge in a chain of a desideratum until the arête or maturity of learning is achieved. Each arête of an achievement becomes a beginning of an advanced maturity than the hitherto.

Time and tide, they say, wait for no one; but it is with the same time that the students and teachers need to engage with each other so that the enterprise of giving and receiving educational materials could be facilitated. The reality today is that this needed and precious time for both teachers and students to engage is either inadequate or elusive due to the fact that each moment of the day is taken up by other pressing life matters and exigencies.

The question is: How best can we maximize whatever time we have to ensure that both students and teachers are well engaged so that the needed educational materials are adequately and proportionately dispensed and received by all in the educational matrix to provide a comprehensive universal education for all? It is here that the introduction of the concept of a **FLIPPED CLASSROOM** comes in.

The concept of the **Flipped Classroom** has already been mentioned in the past Religious Education Program Policy Handbooks. With its introduction, starting from September 2018, it will be a handy tool and platform to help both teachers and parents to ensure that all students are aided to maximize any opportune time to learn and develop their knowledge which is commensurate to their ages and learning abilities in a likeable ambience. The prospect of missed or cancelled classes due to any life's exigencies will be mitigated if not totally eradicated so far as teachers, parents, and students have access to the Internet on any Electronic Medium. By the click and interaction with a dedicated Software Program on a Personal Computer, Smartphone, and a Tablet, for example, students, teachers, and parents can virtually engage one another to teach and learn simultaneously at a comfort zone of all without any anxiety of an intimidation which can sometimes hump the effort to teach and learn.

A **Caveat**: the **Flipped Classroom** is not to supplant the actual direct Student-Teacher engagement in a Classroom Set-up, since the students also ought to mature through constant interaction with their peers and others. Rather, the Flipped Classroom will be an addition to augment and accelerate the Traditional Classroom setup. The medium of engagement of this generation is that of Electronic Media, and it is that which is being tapped into to facilitate the teaching and learning process of the Religious Education Program. The use of Electronic Media is apt to the students' multi-sensory capabilities; it also satiates their ardent desires to obtain instantaneously answers to the pertinent and pressing questions they may have.

## April Reminders:

- Mar. 25 Palm Sunday—No Religious Education Class
- Mar. 27 Chrism Mass—Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman, La Crosse-10:30am
- Mar. 29 Holy Thursday Mass—St. Joseph Church—7:00pm
- Mar. 30 Good Friday: Stations of the Cross—at Both Churches—9:00am  
Passion of the Lord—St. Joseph Church—1:00pm
- Mar. 31 Holy Saturday Mass—St. Joseph Church—8:00pm
- Apr. 1 Easter Sunday Mass at St. Joseph—8:00am; No Religious Ed. Classes  
Easter Sunday Mass at St. Kevin—10:00am; No Religious Ed. Classes
- Apr. 8 Divine Mercy Sunday  
Mass & Religious Education Class Time Changes:  
St. Kevin: Mass at 8:00am with Rel. Ed. Class from 9:00am-9:45am  
St. Joseph: Rel. Ed. Class from 9:00am-9:45am with Mass at 10:00am
- Apr. 15 Religious Education Classes at both Churches
- Apr. 21 Practice for St. Joseph First Holy Communicants—10am; lunch following
- Apr. 22 First Holy Communion at St. Joseph at 10:00am with Brunch  
No Religious Education Class for St. Joseph's students  
Religious Education Class at St. Kevin from 9:00am-9:45am
- Apr. 29 First Holy Communion at St. Kevin at 10:00am  
Practice for First Holy Communicants starts at 9:30am  
Brunch for First Holy Communicants and Graduates at St. Kevin  
Rel. Ed. Class at St. Joseph from 9:00am-9:45am with Mass at 10am  
Confirmation Retreat at St. Joseph immediately following 10am Mass  
No Rel. Ed. Class at St. Kevin
- May 5 Youth Mass and Marian Crowning at Both Churches  
Last Religious Education Class at Both Churches 9:00am-9:45am  
Brunch for students & parishioners at both Churches after Masses
- May 23 Rite of Confirmation will be at St. Mary's Church in Tomah at 7pm
- Jun 13-15 Vacation Bible School-St. Joseph Church
- Aug 6-10 Vacation Bible School—St. Kevin Church

## **Parents of Children Grades 1-10**

Please, if your child is going to be absent from a Religious Education Class for any reason, you need to contact the respective teacher by using the Religious Education E-mail or by calling the Religious Education Department Phone and leaving a message.

St. Joseph Religious Education Coordinator: 715-299-0653

St. Kevin Religious Education Coordinator: 608-488-3001

## **Parents of our 2nd Grade Students:**

### **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**

#### For Students of St. Joseph Church:

Confessions and Practice will be on Saturday, April 21, 2018 10am with a lunch to follow.

First Holy Communion with Brunch will be on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 10am. Students are to be at the church by 9:45am

#### For Students of St. Kevin Church:

First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 10am with a brunch to follow.

Practice for First Holy Communicants starts at 9:30am on Sunday, April 29, 2018.

## **Parents of our 10th Grade Students:**

**Please mark your calendars for these very important dates:**

**Confirmation Retreat** for all Confirmation Students of St. Joseph Church will be on April 29, 2018 at St. Joseph Church at Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Students will first attend Mass at 10am with Fr. Biju, followed by the Retreat.

**Confirmation** for 10th Graders will be on Wednesday, May 23, 2018.

Place of Confirmation: St. Mary's Church in Tomah, Wisconsin

Please watch for more details on Confirmation as the time for Confirmation draws nearer.

## **2018 Vacation Bible School**

### **All are Welcome!**

This year the theme is "An Explosion of Worship" Art Camp

June 13-15, 2018 from 9:00am-11:30am—St. Joseph Church

& August 6-10, 2018 from 5:00pm-7:00pm—St. Kevin Church

To register your child please visit the Guardian Angels Parish Website.

[guardianangelscathparish.org](http://guardianangelscathparish.org)

## **Parents with Students Pre-School through 10th Grade of St. Joseph Religious Education Program**

As it is the tradition for the Religious Education Program Students to furnish Theme Baskets for the Annual Parish Festival, the St. Joseph Festival Committee has requested the students to once again be in charge of furnishing a variety of Theme Baskets for this year's Annual Festival to be held on  
August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Teachers and students have been divided into teams. Each team is being asked to come up with a theme for their basket and then begin collecting items for their basket. It is highly recommended that each team select their theme by the end of class on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Teams will then have until May 5<sup>th</sup> to collect the needed items for their baskets. Please find your designated team below.

Red Team: Grades Pre-School through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Blue Team: Grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>  
Yellow Team: Grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>  
Green Team: Grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>

Teams will have from:  
April 8<sup>th</sup>—May 5<sup>th</sup> to collect the items for their basket.

Teachers will be communicating with parents as to how they would like the items collected.