

*St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception*  
PARISH AND SCHOOL



*Luke Grietman, Religious Education Administrator*

---

Dear Parents,

Greetings in the Lord! We are set to begin the 2009-2010 Faith Formation year. We hope and pray that this will be our best year yet. On August 26<sup>th</sup> we had our parent meeting. This letter will cover those topics for those who could not make the meeting and be a reminder for those who were present.

This year, as in years past, we are emphasizing the importance of the Catholic household. Parents are the primary educators a child's faith life. A catechist can tell your child that going to Mass on Sunday is important, but only you can show your child it is important. Please take your children to the sacraments. Also, please take an interest in what your children are learning this year. Ask them questions about what they've learned. Please pray as a family to teach them how to pray. There is no substitute for a parent teaching their child our beautiful Catholic faith. Faith Formation is here to help you educate your child in the faith.

There are a few new things this year. For starters, the way we use SCRIP has been altered to better help our families. The goal remains \$100, but if a family exceeds that total 50% of the exceeding funds can be applied to tuition.

Another new facet to our program this year is the way we will cancel classes. If there is a snowstorm or other inclement weather, classes will be cancelled online. We will still contact the schools to let students know and you are still welcome to call the Faith Formation office. However, for those of you who have access to a computer, this may be the easiest way. The Faith Formation website is <http://stmarygreenville.org/faith-education-and-formation/>. Class schedules, upcoming events, and pictures can also be found on our page.

We are asking families to supply a notebook for their child. We have found that taking some notes helps aid memory and retention. If this is a problem, we will provide a notebook for you.

Grades 1-5 will have workbooks again this year. Students may have activities to do in their workbooks. Please take an interest in this and work with your child on these selected pages.

Middle School and Elementary school students will have a new coordinator this year. Miss Ebsch was just too swamped with her full-time job to continue with Faith Formation. We have hired Laura Johnson to take her place. Laura will be presiding over the 1<sup>st</sup> Penance and 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion preparation. As always, with any problems I am available regardless of grade. Laura is also going to begin exploring more youth ministry options for middle/high school students. Keep your eyes open for these.

Middle school and elementary school students must attend 80% of the classes this year. That breaks down to 4 out of 5. We require this in order to continue a child's growth. The years build upon the previous year and if a child misses too many classes they will not be up to speed. Please get your children to as many classes as possible. High school requires attendance at 5 out of 6 classes each quarter. Every class that is missed has corresponding homework that must be completed. If there is a major illness, death in the family, or some other event that will cause long absences, please contact our offices to let us know. Also, for the safety of children we ask that you contact our offices if your child is unable to attend faith formation on that evening.

We have set up time for prayer this year. Parents are always invited to come into the church and pray while their child is in class. At 6:45 each Wednesday of Faith Formation classes we will pray the Liturgy of the Hours with any parents and children who would like to join us. We have the

*St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception*  
PARISH AND SCHOOL



*Luke Gietman, Religious Education Administrator*

---

books here. Do not be afraid if you don't know how this particular form of prayer works, it will be a learning experience for everyone.

If a catechist says something that you disagree with or don't like, please do not confront the catechist. They are volunteers. Please bring questions or concerns to me. I can be reached at 757-6555 ext 207 or [lgietman@stmarygreenville.org](mailto:lgietman@stmarygreenville.org).

We are always looking for volunteers. If you don't think you can teach, but want to help out, consider becoming a hall monitor or class aide. These roles help us to keep our hallways safe and organized, and our classrooms on schedule. If you'd like to help, please contact Sue Brockman at 757-6555 ext 208.

Thank you once again for joining us this year as we continue to cultivate the next generation of saints. Please pray for your child, your child's classmates, and your child's catechist. Each grade level has an assigned prayer to memorize for the year. Please help them accomplish this goal.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Mark Vander Steeg  
*Pastor*

Luke Gietman  
*Religious Education Administrator*