

THE CHURCH OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

2008-2009 CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The office of Religious Education and the Ministers who serve the parish in the Catechetical Ministry are dedicated to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ through teaching, action, witness and responsible commitment of self. Our goals are that of planting seeds, assisting parents, and of course, being a place of spiritual refuge and learning to the lives that we touch. We do this with understanding of the diverse cultures and levels of our brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus.

– Mission Statement

*“This boundless, unfathomable love of God...
Is Love beyond all telling.”*

DR. BOB SCHIHL, Director of Adult Religious Education
ANNE MARIE HOLLAND, Coordinator of Religious Education
ROBIN KAPEC, Assistant to the Ministers

**CALENDAR FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
AND SPECIAL EVENTS
FOR THE 2008 - 2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

SEPTEMBER	23	First class for entire program / confirmation orientation Assembly Room
	30	
OCTOBER	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	Music for all Saints/ Mr. Gary Gompers
NOVEMBER	4	
	11	
	18	
	25	
DECEMBER	2	
	9	
	16	Jesse's Tree pot luck dinner
	23	NO CLASS
	30	NO CLASS
JANUARY	6	
	13	
	20	Rite to life speaker grades 6 - 12
	27	
FEBRUARY	3	
	10	
	17	
	24	
MARCH	3	
	10	
	17	
	24	
	31	NO CLASS / Mission Week
APRIL	7	
	14	NO CLASS / Easter Break
	21	Pot Luck / Blessed Mother prayer service

CLASSES ARE HELD FROM 6:30 PM UNTIL 7:30 PM.

If there is an occurrence of inclement weather we will follow the schedule of the Virginia Beach Public Schools for that given day concerning closure.

SACRAMENTAL CLASSES

RECONCILIATION/ PENANCE

“Jesus began his risen life by giving the Apostles power to forgive sins. The sacrament of Penance continues His work of forgiving and reconciling. It celebrates the prodigal’s return to the eternally merciful Father, renewing the sinner's union with God and also, with the community, in as much as, our sins harm our brothers and sisters.” – NCD

Parents and students are expected to attend the following **WORKSHOP** for parents and **RETREAT** for children:

- **Saturday, November 8 from 9 a.m. until 12 Noon.**

Students will meet in the **SCHOOL**.

Parents will meet in **IMMACULATA HALL**.

All parents must bring a COPY of their child’s /children’s Baptismal Certificate to the workshop. This meeting is mandatory for all students and parents.

- **Reception of the sacrament of First Penance: December 6 at 9 am.**

FIRST EUCHARIST/COMMUNION

“Eucharist and Church are the basic realities, bearing the same names; communion and Body of Christ. The Eucharist increases charity within the visible community.” – NCD

Parents and students are expected to attend the following **WORKSHOP** for parents and **RETREAT** for children:

- **Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon**

Students will meet in the school

Parents will meet in immaculata hall.

All parents must bring a COPY of their child’s Children’s Baptismal certificate to the workshop. This meeting is mandatory for all parents and students receiving First Eucharist (communion).

- **Rehearsal for First Eucharist is:**

Thursday evening, **April 23** at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

- **Reception of the Sacrament of First Eucharist is:**

Saturday, **April 25.**

- Children who’s **Last Name** begins with **A through L** will celebrate at the **8:30 a.m. mass.**
- Children who's **Last Name** begins with **M through Z** will celebrate at the **11 a.m. mass.**

CONFIRMATION

“Confirmation emphasized the transformation of life by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in His fullness. Confirmed Christians claim fully as their own, the new life into which they were first initiated at Baptism” – NCD

ALL CANDIDATES must be **PRE-REGISTERED** for classes which will begin on:

September 23th in Paschal Hall

The **Confirmation Schedule** will follow the Religious Education schedule for the 2008/2009 school year.

Confirmation rehearsal and liturgy will be announced at a later date at the discretion of the bishop.

BAPTISM

“Preparation for Baptism of infants is a ‘teachable’ moment, when the Parish Community can encourage parents to re-examine the meaning which faith has in their lives. In offering catechesis to parents and sponsors the Church shows its love for and eagerness to support them, as well as, their children.” – NCD

Because we are sensitive to the needs of parents we make Baptism a priority of our community. Pre-baptism classes are held the last Tuesday of every month, while baptism takes place every Sunday during the year. Arrangements should be made in advance of the classes by calling the office.

MATRIMONY

“Husbands and wives become signs, in to the world of God's love for His people.”

– NCD

Realizing the need for advanced planning, couples contemplating marriage are to make arrangements at the parish offices one year prior to insure quality and dates.

SACRAMENTAL MARRIAGE

There are many Catholics who married civilly but not sacramentally in the church. If you would like more information about having your marriage blessed by the church, call Julie Abbate (497-8330) in our church office.

MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS

An annulment is a declaration by a Tribunal to the Church that a marriage never legally existed as a sacramental union according to canon law. If you find yourself in this situation where your marriage was not a marriage, please contact Julie Abbate (497-8330) in our church office.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE (CICCA)

These movements are designed for adults and children who have a desire for full membership in the Roman Catholic Community and for full membership for members who wish to share their faith with others.

The following list of dates is for RCIA classes. CICCA classes are designated to the right of the list.

AUGUST	17	9 AM	
	24	9 AM	
SEPTEMBER	7	9 AM	
	14	9 AM	
	21	9 AM	
	28	9 AM	
OCTOBER	5	9 AM	CICCA will also meet
	12	9 AM	
	19	9 AM	
	26	9 AM	
NOVEMBER	2	9 AM	CICCA will also meet
	9	9 AM	
	16	9 AM	
	23	9 AM	
	30	9 AM	Mass: Rite of Welcome for RCIA and CICCA
DECEMBER	7	9 AM	
	14	9 AM	
	21	9 AM	
JANUARY	4	9 AM	CICCA will also meet
	11	9 AM	
	25	9 AM	
FEBRUARY	1	9 AM	CICCA will also meet
	8	9 AM	
	15	9 AM	
	22	9 AM	Rite of Sending / RCIA and CICCA
MARCH	1	9 AM	CICCA will also meet
	8	9 AM	Mass RCIA and CICCA First Scrutiny
	15	9 AM	Mass RCIA Second Scrutiny
	22	9 AM	Mass RCIA Third Scrutiny
	29		NO CLASS: Mission Week
APRIL	5	9 AM	Prayer breakfast
	11		Easter Vigil

* The meeting with the Bishop will be a set date by the bishop's office and we will inform you of the date when we are notified.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The church of St. Gregory the Great has many adult study opportunities throughout the year. These programs are designed to meet the many needs and interests of all people in our parish community. For more information contact the Religious Education Office at 499-4494.

Following is a list of the ongoing programs which meet weekly:

- **Wednesday mornings:** Scripture Study

In addition to these weekly programs, there will be **PARENT SESSIONS** held on **Tuesday evenings**, 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm starting **September 23**. These sessions will cover a wide variety of topics. **Babysitting will be available** to parents of small children. Watch your bulletin and home flyers for more information.

- **Confirmation for Adults** will be offered starting in the fall. Time and place will be announced. Many Catholic adults find for various reasons that they did not receive their confirmation in their formative years. These classes are also great refresher courses for confirmed Catholics who wish to update their knowledge of church. St. Gregory recognizes this and offers class on a bi-weekly basis.

- **Catechist Formation Classes** are held periodically throughout the year for all catechists and all parishioners. Watch the bulletin and flyers for more information.

- **The Parish Mission** will take place during the Lenten season, make sure you set aside this week for a prayerful and spiritual experience. Watch the bulletin and flyers for more information.

- **The Landings Program** welcomes inactive Catholics back to the practice of the sacraments and greater involvement in the life of the parish.

- **Small faith sharing** communities are in practice. Groups of 8-12 adults gather weekly to pray together, discuss faith and encourage and care for one another. Watch the church bulletin for more information.

Stay alert for many more opportunities in adult study.

St. Gregory the Great Office of Religious Education 2007 - 2008

Safety Checklist

1. All children in 3 year old class to grade 3 must be picked up by a parent at the end of each class. For any alternative consideration, only written requests will be considered.
2. In case of fire, the fire drill escape route posted above the light switches in each classroom will be followed.
3. All Classroom doors are linked to the main office by a call button located next to the light switch. Teachers will have access to this button for safety reasons.
4. All class rooms will be on lock down when the bell rings promptly at 6:30 PM. If your child is late, note that it will be very disruptive to unlock doors for your tardy child. Please be on time and considerate.
5. If you are picking your child up early, you must check in at the office prior to pick up.
6. Any child who has not been picked up will be brought to the office. Class ends at 7:30 pm and all children should be picked up in a timely fashion.
7. Any child found waiting in the yard around the school building will be brought to the school office.
8. Any child loitering after the first bell will be sent to the office. Parents are asked to vacate the halls after dropping off children. - monitors will be posted in the 3 buildings to enforce this rule.
9. Take your child to the bathroom upon arrival before class Begins!!! We have an hour with your children and do not want to spend any part of that hour in the bathroom. We understand emergencies.
10. Please enter and exit from the parking area carefully. No child should be wandering in the parking area looking for parent's cars without supervision. If we see them doing exactly that, they will be brought to the office.
11. If your child is sick during the day, assume he/she is sick in the evening. Keep them home!!
12. Explain why your child is attending CCD. Leave attitudes and unruly behavior at home. We have every intention for your child to be safe, fun and informative with your children.

4 Year Old to 12th Grade Curriculum

St. Gregory the Great is using RCL's **FAITH FIRST LEGACY EDITION** which devotes an entire unit in every grade level to each of the four pillars of the Catechism: **Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer**. The Faith First Legacy Edition delivers consistent, comprehensive learning and reinforcement in all content areas on all grade levels. In addition, every grade level is dedicated to studying **Scripture**, and **liturgical year** lessons which are provided for all the weeks of Advent, Lent, Easter, and important feasts.

In recent years, the Bishops of the United States published **SHARING CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: CHALLENGES AND DIRECTIONS**, a document that focuses on seven major themes of catholic social teachers. These themes are prevalent throughout grades 1 - 6.

They are as follows:

- 1) **Life and Dignity of the Human Person**
- 2) **Call to Family, Community, and Participation**
- 3) **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**
- 4) **Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person**
- 5) **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of the Workers**
- 6) **Care for God's Creation**
- 7) **Solidarity of the Human Family**

Children in grades 1 - 6 will be discussing one theme a month.

Grade 10.....Catholic Social Teaching (First of Two Year Preparation for Confirmation) through **Beatitudes, Community and Service**.

Grade 11 and 12.....Basic **Sacramental Theology for Confirmation, the Dignity of Mankind, The Universal Church**.

Tracking your child's lesson for each grade is available with the Web Site for RCL. Click on FaithFirst.com for the most varied and useful resources for students and parents and can help extend your child's class time at home.

ST. GREGORY SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DISCIPLINE POLICY

The Office of Religious Education is very concerned with the catechesis of your children here in our parish community. One of the great concerns is the behavior of our students while here for the ONE hour on Tuesday evenings. To create an environment that is safe and conducive to our mission as catechists, we have developed the following policy.

1. Classes begin promptly at 6:30 PM and end at 7:30 PM. It is very important that students arrive on time and are picked up promptly at 7:30 PM. 3 year olds, 4 year olds, kindergartners, 1ST, 2nd and 3rd graders will not be released to anyone other than a parent. If there is an alternate person picking up your child you need to send a note granting that person permission to pick up your child. Remember, tardiness is very disruptive not only to the teacher, but also to the other children who arrive on time.
2. Pagers, cell phones and any form of weapon will absolutely not be tolerated. This occurrence will result in the student being immediately dismissed from the program.
3. If a student is found loitering on the premises they will be immediately dismissed from the program.
4. Any form of illegal substances on the premises will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
5. Any disrespect to the teacher or another student will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
6. All guests must be checked in the office with a letter of permission from the attending student's parents.
7. Students will conduct themselves, while attending class and taking part in special events and liturgies, in an exemplary fashion. If a student shows a lack of respect or cannot manage to control their behavior while here, they will be immediately dismissed from the program.

We ask that each and every parent remind their child/children why they are here on Tuesday evenings. That is to share the Good News and to grow in our faith formation. We wish to do this with joy and celebration. We ask for your full cooperation in this request. God Bless.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____