

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church



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June 2011

Dear Parents,

Following many discussions with Robin Hambright, Director of Religious Education and Scott Hoey, Director of Youth Ministry, we have determined that our Religious Education (RE) program will be reformatted beginning in the Fall 2011. If your child(dren) are in PK – 5th grade or if they are preparing for First Communion, Robin will continue to administer the program. Classes are scheduled to begin the week of September 11. However, if you are the parent of a middle school or high school student, your family will be affected by the change. Scott Hoey will be responsible for faith formation for middle and high school students.

This model is new to St. Margaret Mary but it has been used successfully by several surrounding parishes. We are all very excited about being able to offer this new format as it serves two purposes. We hope that students will experience a deeper sense of community with their peers and faith community and that the new format will help solve some of the classroom space issues that our growing church is having.

Beginning September 14, 2011 all middle school students (Grades 6-8) will attend RE on Wednesday nights from 5:00 – 7:00PM. A typical night will look like this:

5:00-5:30PM – Fellowship with light refreshments

5:30-7:00PM – The Religious Education (RE) portion of the evening is required to comply with the Diocesan formation requirements for the sacrament of Confirmation. The RE segment of the night will be broken down as follows:

- 5:30-6:00 – Large group discussion for catechists to give an overview of the topic.
- 6:00-6:30 – Break out into small groups to allow for an in-depth discussion on the topic. This discussion with the students will be facilitated by two Core Team members/catechists.
- 6:30-7:00 – Students will reconvene to large group to summarize and have a closing prayer.

On September 11, 2011 the high school students (Grades 9-12) and the Confirmation candidates will begin attending RE on Sunday evening from 6:00 – 8:00PM in the PAC. A typical night will look like this:

- 6:00-6:30 – Fellowship with light refreshments
- 6:30-7:00 – Large group will gather for presentation on the catechetical topic of the night.
- 7:00-7:30 – Small group discussion will be led by a senior student and an adult core team member to allow for further discussion and Q & A.
- 7:30-8:00 – Return to large group to wrap up and for the closing prayer.

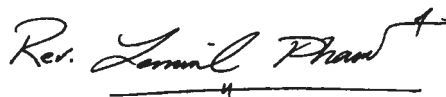
This format is very similar to what we have already been doing in the existing Youth Group Ministry. We are just adding the formation component to help students prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. The Diocese of Austin has certain requirements for candidates who are preparing for the sacrament and we will continue to comply with those mandates. The new program will follow the prescribed confirmation curriculum and we will continue to maintain attendance and community service hour records.

As always, we welcome parent involvement in the development process of the new program and EIM certified catechists are also needed to help our young students learn more about our Catholic faith. Please consider becoming part of the team.

Robin and Scott will be available throughout the summer to handle enrollment. The registration schedule and enrollment form will be available online. Families are encouraged to finalize their registration early so that we can be fully prepared with sufficient catechists, ample classroom supplies, plan room assignments, etc. If you have any questions about the new format, please do not hesitate to call Scott Hoey at 350-9368 or Robin Hambright at 260-0162.

I look forward to another successful, spirit-filled school year!

Love and Peace in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Le-Minh Pham". The signature is written in black ink and includes a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rev. Le-Minh Pham
Pastor