

## 2009/2010 Elementary Faith Formation Parent Meeting

### ❖ H1N1 Influenza

We are taking steps to reduce the spread of influenza at St. Pius V. We want to keep the religious education/faith formation/youth ministry program functioning in a normal manner this year. But we need your help to do this.

- **Teach your children to wash their hands often** with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer gel.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of a fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to religious education classes or other parish programs if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at religious education or other parish programs will be sent home. Sick children will be removed from the classroom or other learning setting while awaiting the arrival of a parent or another approved adult who may take them home. Please make sure the religious education/faith formation/youth ministry has updated contact information for you.
- **You may reach our office staff** at the following numbers if you have any questions or concerns: 507-263-4680 (Jean Edstrom & Debbie Bauer) or 507-263-4800 (Linda Rogers) or click on our e-mail address above.
- **If H1N1 proves to cause more severe illness** that it did in the spring of 2009, we may take additional steps to prevent the spread of illness. We will keep you updated with any new information regarding St. Pius V's strategy to prevent the spread of influenza.
- **Catechists will be asked to have each child use hand sanitizer when they arrive for class.** Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and other locations of church.

### ❖ Calendar

- **Where can I find the calendar?** A copy was mailed to each family, additional copies are available at church entrances and outside the Faith Formation Office door, and the calendar is posted on the St. Pius V website: <http://www.stpiusvcf.org/>
- **2009/2010 Faith Formation School Year 9/23/09-4/28/10**
- **Special Events - Please check calendar for additional information**
  - **All Grades:** Grandparents Mass, Socks-n-stuff, Waffle Breakfast, Advent Party, Christmas Eve Mass, Ash Wednesday, end of year Ice Cream Social.
  - **6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Bible Blessing and Distribution
  - **5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Altar Server Training

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Scapular Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Sacramental Prep, Details to be covered in Discussion following general meeting
- Reminders will be posted on the website, the Church bulletin and the Faith Formation Insert in the bulletin, and on occasion, sent via email or a paper reminder. Families are expected to be aware of the calendar and to participate in the special events.

❖ **Class Time**

- Class: 6pm-7pm
- Drop-off: Please drop off children as close to 6pm as possible to allow teachers time to setup and prepare classrooms.
- Pick-up: Children pre-4<sup>th</sup> grade should be picked up inside the building in their classroom. Speak with your child's teacher to let them know if someone else will be picking up or escorting your child from the building.

❖ **Safety**

- All volunteers with children must meet the "Protection of Children and Youth Initiative" guidelines set by the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. This includes backgrounds checks, Code of Conduct and VIRTUS training.
- In addition, there is age-appropriate, church-approved personal safety instruction for children in our faith formation program. Please watch for further information on this for 2009/2010

❖ **Discipline Policy**

St. Pius V Faith Formation program is committed to providing a quality Catholic education for all students in a Christian atmosphere conducive to learning and teaching. To achieve this goal the following "BE Attitudes" apply to everyone:

***BE RESPECTFUL BE RESPONSIBLE BE SAFE BE PREPARED BE WELCOMING***

**Our discipline plan is designed to:**

- Set the expectation that ALL students will be held accountable for ALL of their behavior ALL of the time.
- Create safe, orderly, and positive classrooms.
- Show students how to monitor their behavior and evaluate their choices.

**Discipline Plan:**

If a student is not following the "BE Attitudes" the following actions will be taken:

1. First time: Verbal Warning from the teacher.
2. Second time: Student will be sent to the Coordinator's office to discuss the problem and reflect on how he/she can fix the situation. The child will then be sent back to class.
3. Third time: Parents will be contacted to pick up the child. Parents will be provided with any additional paperwork to complete that night's lesson at home.
  - If this happens again the same steps will be followed plus a meeting will be setup with the Child, Parents, FF Coordinator and Father Jay.

- ❖ Communication
  - Updates, reminders, requests: sent via email, Faith Formation Insert in weekly bulletin, online at <http://www.stpiusvcf.org/>, click on "Youth", and bulletin board in lower level of church.
  - Phone calls, email or personal meetings from parents are encouraged at anytime.
  
- ❖ Prayer
  - This year elementary students will be focusing on prayer. Our goal will be to help children build their relationship with God and foster a prayer life that allows them to establish a regular conversation between themselves and God. We will work on developing rituals around prayer, making it personal, overcoming fear/anxiety about praying, and praying from the heart.
  
- ❖ Individual Pictures - Father Jay has requested a Photo directory of our students in Faith Formation. Please provide feedback if you have questions or concerns regarding this. Later during the school year we would plan to take photos of the children to create a directory.
  
- ❖ Volunteers
 

New this year, we are asking that all Parents volunteer at least one time with program. Sign up sheets are available after the meeting. Following tonight the sign up sheets will be on the Bulletin Board in the Gathering area.

  - Volunteer Opportunities include:
    - Art project help - cutting templates, assisting with project
    - Paper work - Sorting/assembling packets, copying
    - Classroom helper/Aide
    - Classroom cleanup - pre-4<sup>th</sup> grade, 6:45pm each Wednesday
    - Volunteer for a special Event:
      - Advent Party, retreat setup
    - Bathroom Monitors
    - Exit Door Monitors
    - Altar Server Trainer
    - Music leader
  - Volunteers will need to sign a Code of Conduct form and complete VIRTUS training. VIRTUS training will be held at St. Pius in the near future (you may begin volunteering while waiting to complete the VIRTUS training). Multiple dates will be offered to accommodate people's varying schedules.

St. Pius V Faith Formation Contact Information:

Faith Formation Elementary Coordinator  
 Jean Edstrom  
[ffelementary@frontiernet.net](mailto:ffelementary@frontiernet.net) 263-4680

Faith Formation Secretary  
 Linda Rogers  
[ffsecretary@frontiernet.net](mailto:ffsecretary@frontiernet.net) 263-4800

Church Office  
[stpiusvcf@frontiernet.net](mailto:stpiusvcf@frontiernet.net) 263-2578