

SS JOHN & PAUL PARISH -- MIDDLE SCHOOL HOME STUDY FAITH FORMATION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION 2008-2009

PHILOSOPHY: The Catholic Church teaches that parents are the first and best teachers of the faith. For many families, the Home Study Model provides a superior process for parents to exercise their sacred responsibility to pass on the faith to their children. This approach to faith formation can be more effective, more personalized, more convenient, less time-consuming, and more rewarding for both parent and child. It can bring families together and increase the family's sense of unity with the parish. The Middle School Home Study Model combines home study with a commitment to earn five Middle School Faith Builder credits. It will be the parents' responsibility to report their child's attendance at events by e-mail to faithbuilders@stsjohnandpaul.org.

HOME STUDY COMPONENT: This program allows students to complete text lessons at home under parents' supervision along with completing online Chapter Reviews. The chapter review information should be e-mailed regularly to holyfamilies@stsjohnandpaul.org. We will be tracking successful completion of the textbooks.

CHAPTER REVIEW TESTS: After completing study of a chapter, the child should complete a Chapter Review Test. These tests can be found online at www.faithfirst.com. Be sure to select the "Legacy Edition" Chapter Review when prompted. For sixth graders, you will simply choose Grade 6 and then click on the chapter you've completed. For grades 7 and 8, you will NOT be clicking on the grade level. You'll be going directly to the names of the texts. You will be using two textbooks; Church and Sacraments and Jesus in the New Testament. You will need to double-click the appropriate textbook and then choose the specific chapter. When the test is completed you will be prompted to enter an e-mail address to which the results will be sent and should enter holyfamilies@stsjohnandpaul.org. **Please notate on the subject line of your e-mail message which book you are testing from, Church and Sacraments OR Jesus in the New Testament.** If there are any problems accessing the online Chapter Review, students should complete the Review Page at the end of the chapter, answering all of the questions on a separate piece of paper. Please rip out the review page and attach it to the answer sheet, and mail it to the Faith Formation Office. Please mark the envelope "Attention Kathy Masters". **Students must complete at least 70% of the chapters in their textbooks to ensure continued eligibility for the program.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH BUILDER EVENTS: Students participating in the Middle School Home Study Program are also expected to earn five Middle School Faith Builder credits each year. These credits can be earned at events which are designed to build community spirit, renew enthusiasm, delight the senses, help everyone feel closer to God, and educate all participants. Faith Builder Event dates are listed on the back of this page. This list will be updated throughout the year. Please check the Middle School bulletin board across from Room 8 for the most current information each month.

All CVOL Retreats also count as Faith Builders (2 credits) -6th Grade: Friday, November 21st, 7th Grade: Friday, January 23rd, 8th Grade: Friday, February 27th. All Retreats will run from 9:00-3:00 PM (includes Reconciliation and Mass). Once a student completes the CVOL Home Study materials (because they are unable to attend the retreat) they will receive one faith builder credit.

Parents may elect to substitute faith-related educational events for the Faith Builders, such as:

- Family Faith Events (e.g. Thanksgiving Feast Benediction, Teaching Mass, Evening Prayer for Life, Lent Event, Stations of the Cross-all of these events are worth 1 credit each)
- Participation as an actor in Living Stations (5 credits)
- Regular service in the Nursery (baby-sitting during a Mass, must volunteer at least 3 times for 1 credit)
- Attendance at a special Liturgy (e.g. Good Friday, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil, Reconciliation Service) 1 credit
- or other activities approved by the Faith Formation Office.

Parents will be responsible to report their child's attendance at all events by e-mail to faithbuilders@stsjohnandpaul.org.

MASS ATTENDANCE: Weekly Mass attendance and reception of Christ in the Eucharist is absolutely essential for a healthy faith life -- and MORE important than anything else. Families should attend any convenient Mass on the weekend of their meeting.

G.A.P. Middle School: Participation in GAP Middle School (6th-8th grade) recreational/social programs is recommended, but optional.

Questions?: If you have any questions about this program, please contact Kathy Masters 724-935-2104 X36 or kmasters@stsjohnandpaul.org. Kathy's office is located inside Room 1.