

STS. JOHN & PAUL -- MIDDLE SCHOOL HOME STUDY FAITH FORMATION

IMPORTANT INFORMATION 2011-2012

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.

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@stsjohndpaul.org. We will be tracking successful completion of the textbooks.

CHAPTER REVIEW TESTS: After completing a chapter, the student should complete a Chapter Review Test. To access the Chapter Review tests:

- 1) Go to www.faithfirst.com
- 2) Click on Chapter Reviews tab
- 3) Click on type of review preferred (Multiple Choice, Word Bank, or Time Trial)
- 4) Choose Grade 6 or the 7/8 book-Mystery of God or Morality
- 5) Choose the chapter

At the end of the review please exit the site and create an email message to notify us of the results. The email should be sent to: holyfamilies@stsjohndpaul.org. In the subject line you can simply state: Tommy Smith, Gr 6, chap 5, 90%.

Note: Student must score 80% or more to count this as a successful chapter completion. Please check our records against your own each time they are posted (you will receive an email that the binders are available). If we are ever "out of sync" your child **does NOT** need to retake a test. The parent should simply send us an email so we can correct our files. Please help your child keep track of their completed chapters.

Sixth grade students must complete at least seventeen chapters in their textbook to ensure continued eligibility for the program. Seventh and Eighth graders must complete at least 9 chapters in each of their two books, for a total of 18 chapters.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH BUILDER EVENTS: Students participating in the Middle School Home Study Program are also required 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 will be posted as they are finalized. This list will be updated throughout the year. Please check the parish web site and/or the Middle School bulletin board across from Room 8 for the most current information each month.

Catholic Vision Of Love Retreats count as Faith Builders (retreats are worth 2 credits, the Home Study model is worth 1 credit) -6th Grade: Wednesday, August 24th, 7th Grade: Friday, October 21st, 8th Grade: Friday, March 23rd. All Retreats will run from 9:00-3:00 PM (includes Reconciliation and Mass). Once a student completes the CVOL Home Study materials with their parent (available online at the parish web site) they will receive one faith builder credit. **CVOL is REQUIRED for ALL middle school students (new material presented for each grade level).**

Students 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 2 times for 1 credit)
- Attendance at a special Liturgy (e.g. Good Friday, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil, Reconciliation Service) 1 credit
- Participate in the Middle School Choir or volunteer to be a musician for Mass (3 credits)
- or other activities approved by the Faith Formation Office.

Parents should report their child's attendance at all events by e-mail to faithbuilders@stsjohndpaul.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 X236 or kmasters@stsjohndpaul.org. Kathy's office is located on the lower level of the church.