



St. Leo the Great

Roman Catholic Church

5/24/18

The Catholic faith is the most important thing we can hand on to our children. From generation to generation, this gift has been passed on. Now it is our turn. Each year, the seed grows, and yet is challenged by the conditions of the world. We can't give it up, now or ever.

Now is the time to register for Religious Education for 2018-19! Please fill out the attached paperwork and turn it in by June 30th for on-time registration along with the check. You may mail it, walk it in to the parish office, or place it in the collection basket at Mass in a sealed envelope. Two options are available for each grade level. Gr. 1-6 classes meet approximately every other Saturday, 9-11AM, from September through April. Gr. 7-10 classes meet approximately every other Tuesday, 7-8:30 PM. The At-home / Sunday program is also available for all grade levels. This involves learning the bookwork at home and attending a monthly session with a parent on a Sunday morning each month, 10:35 AM for Gr. 1-5 and 12:05 PM for Gr. 6-10. There are additional special events worked into the programs, especially for sacramental grades.

This summer, I am excited to announce 'Cathletics' fully Catholic **Vacation Bible School!** It will be held 9 AM to 12 PM Mon July 23rd through Fri July 27th. We are also in need of helpers, rising 6th graders through adult. It's a great experience of faith and fun for everyone! Please see attached flyer and form.

Our **middle school youth group, The St. Leo Contenders**, has been going strong week after week! We're now meeting every Monday at 6:30 PM through the summer for games, food, community, and faith and service experiences (email me to make sure we're on). It's open roughly to Gr. 5-8. **Family Fun Night**, however, will be off for the summer until September, as usual.

We're going to **Kingdom Bound at Darien Lake** Tues, July 31st. We will get to go on the rides all day, have faith conversations, and then attend a Christian concert by Casting Crowns. It's open to rising 5th through 12th graders. The cost is \$49, but we're fundraising to get the cost down. No one ever regrets it!

We have a fundraiser coming up to support Religious Education and the youth programs – **Trivia Night!** It will be held 6 PM Sat, June 9th at the parish center, and it should be a great time. Please consider attending or volunteering. We could use volunteers for the evening and ticket sellers after the Masses.

There are many great **adult faith formation** opportunities at St. Leo the Great. Reinvigorate your prayer life this summer with *Oremus*. The session will be held 6:30 – 8 PM Mondays from June 4th through July 23rd. Contact Dawn Iacono at diacono@stleothegreatmamherst.com or 835-8905 x12. The fee is \$15.

I saw Mary Beth Lalka the other day, and she mentioned some opportunities for us at **St. Luke's Mission of Mercy** throughout the month of July. Any high schoolers interested in a service day there should contact me. Remember: 9th and 10th graders need service hours!

Did you know that nationwide, 68% of people who identify as Catholic do not actually raise their children in the Catholic faith? Some people could use a gentle invitation. You see them at school events and extracurriculars. You could always mention to them, for example, that your children are attending Vacation Bible School or youth group at St. Leo the Great and that they are welcome too! If they're behind on their sacraments, we can always work with them. God bless your summer.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael J. Ruszala

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