

April 1, 2010

Dear CEC Parents,

The enclosed packet of material will give you the information you need to know in order to register your child/children for the 2010-2011 CEC year.

There are some changes made in regard to the financing of the program. As you are aware from my letter of January 2010; the presentation made at the masses on the weekend of Feb. 6-7 and the weekly updates in the bulletin, we have not made the income goal necessary to support our operational expenses. The parish finance board and I along with other consultants look at the various aspects of the parish - the CEC program among them. A significant amount of the activity that occurs in our parish revolves around our CEC program and its activities. Like most parishes we consider this in our budgeting. We assess a percentage of the operating costs such as heat/ac, electric/gas to each program and then the parish funds subsidize the remaining amount of the program.

We have made the following changes to the CEC program based on our evaluation of our operation.

1. The registration program for the CEC program for the year 2010 – 2011 will take place between April 1 and May 15.
2. Registration for the program can take place through the mail or in person at the CEC office.
3. There will **ONLY** be one amount paid by each family based upon the number of children who are registered for the program \*(see registration form enclosed).
4. There will be **NO** additional fees for any of the sacramental programs or activities (First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, on site retreats, Antioch Retreat or Confirmation).
5. The registration fee can be made in full or in three installments. The dates due for payments are May 15 – July 15 – Sept 15. In the packet there is a page that has three printed coupons that are to be used for the payments.
6. There will be a **late fee of \$50 assigned for any registration not received by the last day of registration which is May 15**. Registering by May 15 helps us to know the number of children we can expect in our program and budget accordingly.
7. To keep our costs down we do have two fund raisers each year the Cookie Dough and the Candy drive. We ask that you continue to participate in these as you have done in the past.

The rest of the information in this packet should be reviewed carefully.

The above information was financial, which is one of the areas of my responsibility as a pastor.

However there is another issue that concerns me much more as it also reflects upon the life of Mark's Parish. Our CEC program seeks to impart not only basic information about our Catholic Faith to our young people but it also seeks to help them live out that faith in practice. We schedule class masses, mini retreats and other service activities that seek to let the children know the importance of putting their faith into practice. This part of the goal of our program suffers when the children do not participate in our weekly liturgy on Saturday or Sunday or when what they learn in class is not practiced at home. I ask you to seriously consider your commitment to Sunday liturgy.

Weekly worship should be a priority in the life of a Catholic family. I realize there are so many other things that place demands on our time but giving to God first can really help us place our priorities in perspective. Whether you worship at St. Mark's or another parish when you are away on a weekend it is important to do so. A friend of mine recently said to me that he did not think God was going to ask us how many games we won when we get to heaven – it is a thought worthy to think about.

I hope that you all have a very blessed Easter and the Easter season that follows. You are always in my daily prayers and I ask you to please say a prayer for me once and awhile.

Blessings,

Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Goode  
Pastor