Faith First

at Mt. St. Peter Parish, 100 Freeport Rd.
New Kensington, PA 15068

July 29, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Blessings everyone! We hope you and your families have had some time to enjoy the summer, even though another school year is right around the corner.

As you know, parents are the first and principal teachers of the faith. The responsibility to provide for the religious formation of our children is a serious obligation that extends into their teenage years. Mt. St. Peter offers an option of enrollment in the regional Catholic School, Mary, Queen of Apostles, or participation in ***Faith First***, our weekly religious formation program for children from **Kindergarten to Grade 5**. Youth Ministry serves those in grades 6 – 12.

Faith First will begin on Monday, September 14, 2009 and will continue through May 3, 2010 for all children enrolled in public or private non-Catholic schools. We meet in the school building at Mt. St. Peter's between 6:00 and 7:30 PM.

Our first evening, **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**, will be a **FAMILY NIGHT**.
PARENTS AND CHILDREN should report directly to **THE CHURCH** at **6:00 PM.**
That evening, we will meet one another, get introduced to staff**,** and have our first lesson.
Children will have the opportunity to find their classrooms and meet their catechists.
We will conclude the evening with prayer together.

Calendars and registration forms are enclosed for families wishing to register children for ***Faith First***. (Forms may be copied. Additional forms are also available on the parish website www.mountsaintpeter.org, or in the parish office.)

Note that the registration fee for each child is $20, with a $40 limit per family. Make checks payable to Mt. St. Peter Church. No child will be refused for inability to pay. Call Sister Susan to request a waiver**.**

Return Registration Form and Fee

- by mail to Mt. St. Peter Church, 100 Freeport Rd., New Kensington, PA 15068, or
- by dropping them off at the Parish Office, or
- by placing them in an envelope marked "Faith First" and dropping it in the collection basket at Sunday Mass.

Registration Due: Monday, August 31, 2009

If your family is unable to attend ***Faith First*** on Monday evenings, you may register for a program in one of our neighboring parishes:

- ***Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.*** This is a Montessori based religious formation process held at St. Mary of Czestochowa parish located on Kenneth Ave. (only a block away from Mt. St. Peter). For information, call Debbie Discello at 724-335-0785.

- ***Come to the Table.*** Religious formation for the whole family, adults and children. Meets at St. Margaret Mary Church in Lower Burrell. For information, call Joan Duncan at 724-335-2336.

ALL FIRST AND SECOND GRADERS must be enrolled in a faith formation program or a Catholic School in order to be eligible for admission to the preparation process for reception of Confirmation and First Communion in second grade. **Please note:** this is a separate program in addition to regular attendance at the weekly sessions of *Faith First.* Families anticipating celebrating the sacraments with their children will receive a separate mailing with details later in the fall. Two years of regular religious education must precede the celebration of the sacraments.

Please feel free to direct any questions or concerns to either:

Sr. Susan Jenny, Coordinator of Ministry Development
Phone: 724-335-9877, x116
E-mail: sjenny@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Tim Snyder, Coordinator of *Faith First*
Phone: 724-859-1036
E-mail: tsnyder@dioceseofgreensburg.org

We look forward to seeing all of you in September. Do enjoy this last month of summer!

Sister Susan *Tim Snyder*

You have received this letter because our records indicate that you are the parents of a child who will be entering school at some level from kindergarten to fifth grade. If our information is incorrect, or if you are no longer a member of Mt. St. Peter, please contact our Parish Office to help us update our records.

Children who are enrolled in a Catholic School receive religious instruction as a part of their daily studies and are not required to attend Faith First.