

# Church of St. James the Apostle

## Office of Religious Education

14 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, New York 10512  
(845) 225-6504

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January 18, 2010

Dear Parents,

The second semester is underway in our regular Religious Education Program. I thought this would be an appropriate time to communicate with you.

First, I trust the home study is going well and both you and your first grader are enjoying the experience. I do realize that setting time aside to do home study can sometimes be a problem.

On the reverse side, please find listed the competencies we would like all the first graders to have as they enter second grade. This list should help you prepare your child for the test. The oral testing of our first graders will take place on Saturday, March 20, 2010, between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. in the St. James School gymnasium. Please bring their completed textbook on that date.

We make every effort to meet the needs of all our parish children. If your child has special learning needs, we would like to offer you the option of our special religious education class for second graders. Information on our special class can be obtained by calling the Religious Education office.

I hope you will feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments relative to the program or classes. I am available Saturday mornings and Monday evenings at the Religious Education number, (845)225-6504. I believe strongly that the education of our children is a combined effort, our work here and your help at home.

Sincerely,

George A. Bovino, Ed.D.  
Director of Religious Education

GAB/jmm  
Attachment

P.S. Your assistance please: if you know of parents who have not yet registered their first grader for the home study program, please encourage them to do so now. There is still time and we will not accept any student into our second grade program without first successfully completing the first grade home study.

*Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation.*

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January 2010

TO: Parents of First Grade Students

FROM: Dr. George A. Bovino, Director of Religious Education

RE: First Grade Competencies

The testing of first grade students will be held in St. James School gym on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Examiners will be comprised of present Religious Education teachers including second grade teachers.

This testing process is simply designed to measure the readiness of the student. We would like students at the end of the first grade course to possess and be able to demonstrate the following competencies. It is to be viewed by both parents and students as a non-threatening experience. We will make the children feel as comfortable as possible.

1. To be able to correctly make the sign of the cross with the appropriate words.
  2. To be able to recite the Hail Mary and Our Father.
  3. To be able to describe what baptism is and its importance.
  4. To be able to name Jesus' Mother and Father.
  5. To be able to describe the significance of Christmas, Advent, Easter and Lent.
  6. To be able to explain the Last Supper.
  7. To understand that receiving Communion really means receiving the body and blood of Jesus.
  8. To be able to describe the First Christmas Story in their own words.
  9. To be able to explain their understanding of prayer. (Especially the concept that prayer can take many forms, not simply the recitation of a learned format.)
  10. To be able to show their understanding of the fact that God is with us everywhere, not only in church.
- \* We will also look at the student's textbook, it should be completed (at least to the degree that was possible by the student.)
- \* If you have not provided us with a Baptismal Certificate for your child, would you please do so as soon as possible.
- \* Registration for second grade will take place on the day of the first grade readiness test, March 20, 2010. All other grades will be registered through the mail.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

As of this date, we do not have a copy of your first grader's **Baptismal certificate**.

We will be unable to register your child into second grade without this documentation.