

Queen of Angels Catholic Church

Central City, Pennsylvania

September 8, 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been our parish goal over the last four years to revise our CCD program to best reflect the totality of Catholic life. We have done this through classroom instruction, engaging trips, and quality social events. One area where we could do a better job is in the area of Christian service to those in need. This is at the very heart of our lives as Catholics. With that in mind, this semester our students will be placed into four small groups and be given a simple service project. This will help them show the love of Christ to others and help them see a bigger picture of life. A teacher will be in charge of each service project. Each project will include a simple fundraiser (set up between the students, the parents, and the teacher in charge of that specific project - examples include a car wash, bake sale, etc) and the event itself. All students will showcase their projects at the Advent Lessons and Carols service on December 15th. The projects are as follows.....

- **Boxes of Joy.** Cross Catholic Outreach sponsors a project called "Boxes of Joy." This project sends small shoebox size boxes to children in poor countries at Christmas. Students in this project will propose this project to the parish (a student, or students, from the group will speak at Mass one weekend) and small boxes will be given to any parishioner who is interested. Upon receiving a box, one will place simple useful things (ex. a tooth brush, bar of hard soap, etc), one toy, and an educational item (ex. Crayons, notebook, etc) in the box. The boxes will be collected the week of November 3rd. The simple fundraiser will go to help fund the cost of shipping the boxes (\$9.00 each). The supervisor for this project is Karen Mincek.
- **Garvey Manor.** Garvey Manor is a quality Catholic nursing home in Altoona run by the Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm. Students who sign up for this project will be asked to have a simple fundraiser used to buy small prizes for bingo. After buying bingo prizes, the students will take them on a Sunday afternoon (date determined by the group) to Garvey Manor in Altoona and lead a game of bingo with the residents. The students will call bingo, talk to residents (who range in age from their 70s - early 100s), and assist them with bingo. Marianne Topka is in charge of this project.
- **Mom's House.** Mom's House of Johnstown is a Pro-Life outreach that helps moms who have problems making ends meet by providing them with free childcare for their children who are not old enough to attend school. It is a program that helps mothers work and support their families - a powerful way to help create a culture of life that supports mothers who are in need. The program has regularly been recognized as one of the best daycare programs in Cambria and Somerset Counties. Students in this group will have a small fundraiser to help purchase items such as diapers and paper towels that will be given to moms who have their children in the Mom's House program. Students will be asked to take the items to Mom's House and interact with the children in the program one afternoon. Erin Thomas and Cassie Coleman are the project supervisors.
- **Food for Families.** For over 20 years the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has operated Food for Families in the Altoona-Johnstown diocese. Following the call to feed the hungry, the society operates a family kitchen and a food pantry in Johnstown. Established in 1994, the kitchen provides lunchtime meals to anyone in need. There is never a charge for a meal and over 50,000 meals were served last year. If this group is not able to establish a date to assist in serving the lunches, this group will then collect food donations to be given to the SVDP organization and stock the shelves at the pantry. Joetta Mincek and Karen Ritchey are in charge of this project.

All students will be placed in a group. Many of the particulars will be worked out between the teacher/supervisor and the families of the students. Please rank your preference (1 - most interested, 4 - least interested) on the form below and return it to your student's CCD teacher on September 15th. Your child may not get their first choice, but we will do our best to make sure that this is an occasion to show the love of Christ and grow in faith. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at the parish office or via email.

In Christ,



Father Aron

Child Name _____ Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Boxes of Joy _____

Garvey Manor _____

Mom's House _____

Food for Families _____