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Assumption BVM Parish Religious Education for Youth

Spring 2009

Dear PREP Parents/Guardians and Youth:

Easter peace and joy! In this final month of our 2008-2009 PREP season, we thank God for the blessings of this past year, especially the presence of all of you in our parish community and the devoted ministry of our 60 catechists and aides.

Our PREP community now numbers 407 youth and 249 families. The blessing of the large numbers of participants enables us to offer sessions on Sunday and Wednesday. ***When registering your child/ren for PREP, please be clear in your preference of day.*** Please note that preferences will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. Catechists' and aides' preferences will be honored first. Faith sharing happens more effectively in smaller groups, so we intend to keep group sizes small (no larger than 15 members) to facilitate the catechetical process. Please refer to the back of this letter for brief descriptions of PREP levels.

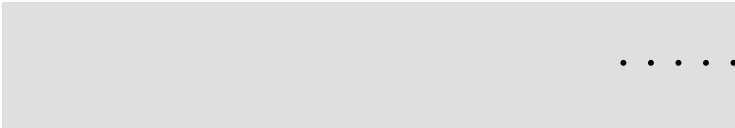
We urge you to be prompt in returning your registration for next year. As we begin forming groups and ordering supplies early in the summer, it is quite helpful to have exact numbers insofar as possible. If you fail to register before June 30, we cannot guarantee a place for your child/children.

As we close our PREP season, we encourage you to continue to practice our faith as a family, especially by joining in the celebration of Eucharist each Saturday evening or Sunday. Even the best religious education program can only build on the faith development happening at home.

The Assumption PREP community nurtures the faith you are passing on to your sons and daughters. Assisting you in your God-given mission as the first and most important educators of your children is a sacred privilege. Please remember in your prayers those adults who have served our community so faithfully this year as catechists, aides, and office helpers. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we strive together to help your children "act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8).

Sincerely,

Christina B. Durback
Director of Religious Education



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Assumption BVM PREP 2009-2010

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) sessions are open to any children in school grades K – 9 who wish to grow in understanding and practice of their Catholic faith.

Assumption Parish will offer PREP sessions for youth in all levels on Sunday mornings (8:30 – 9:45 a.m.) and Wednesday evenings (6:00 – 7:15 p.m.).

A child cannot enter a sacramental preparation group (i.e., Good Shepherd, Apostles, Discipleship) without having participated consistently in a religious education program (Catholic school, Assumption PREP, or a parish religious education program at a previous parish) for at least one year prior to entering sacramental preparation. Children entering Assumption PREP will be placed in the appropriate level at the discretion of the Director of Religious Education.

Children generally in school grade:

usually participate in PREP level:

which helps youth:

Kindergarten

1,2

**Genesis 1
Genesis 2**

begin their formal religious education, learning stories and practices of our faith in a faith-filled, age-appropriate community

2,3

Good Shepherd

learn about and experience God's forgiving love as they prepare to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the first time

3,4

Apostles

learn about Jesus' love & experience God's gift of his Son as they prepare to celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Eucharist** for the first time

3,4

5,6

6,7

**Faith Explorers 1
Faith Explorers 2
Faith Explorers 3**

learn more about the Trinity, their relationship with God and the Christian community, the Sacraments, the stories of our faith, and their responsibilities and rights as Christians

7,8

Discipleship 1

learn more about the life of Jesus, the beliefs of Catholic Christians contained in our Creed, and the meaning of these beliefs in our lives as they begin to consider the call to discipleship

8,9

Discipleship 2

learn about the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives while preparing for the **Sacrament of Confirmation**

9 – 12

J4T Youth Ministry

engage in age-appropriate ongoing faith formation activities such as movie nights, community service, Bible study, discussions, etc.

Providing meaningful sessions for children and youth requires many dedicated catechists and aides. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this ministry. Please pray for others as they discern God's call to be catechists. If God calls, he will provide the grace to answer the call and accomplish his mission!

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Assumption BVM Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Registration 2009-2010

All current participants must re-register. Participation in 2008-2009 does not guarantee a place for the 2009-2010 season.

How should we address your family on mailings? (e.g., Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Smith, or The Smith Family, etc.)

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Father's First and Last Name _____

Mother's First and Last Name _____

If parents are separated/divorced, child/ren live(s) with: _____

| Gender M or F | Child's Name (first, last) | School grade in Sept., 2009 | School child will attend in Sept., 2009 | Sacraments received B = Baptism R = Reconciliation E = Eucharist C = Confirmation |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Please circle your family's session preference:
Sunday mornings (8:30 – 9:45) Wednesday evenings (6:00 – 7:15)
Preferences of catechists and aides will be honored first. All other participants' preferences will be honored on a first-come, first served basis.

Do any of your children have special needs of which we should be aware? If so, please list the child and his/her need here (e.g., hearing loss, peanut allergy, etc.). List any family situations that may make consistent attendance difficult (e.g., custody situations for children whose parents are divorced/separated). N.B. Athletic schedules, extracurricular activities are not considered to be legitimate reasons for inconsistent attendance. List preferences regarding group placement or anything that will help us better serve your children.

| | | PREP FEES | | Make checks payable to: Assumption BVM PREP |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Number of children <u>In PREP</u> | Fee before May 15 (early) | Fee before June 15 | Fee after June 15 (late) | |
| 1 | \$50 | \$60 | \$70 | |
| 2 | \$80 | \$90 | \$100 | |
| 3 | \$90 | \$100 | \$110 | |
| 4 or more | \$100 | \$110 | \$120 | |

N.B. For Faith Explorers 2(usually 5th grade) add \$20 Youth Bible fee.
PREP registration deadline: June 30 No places for participation are guaranteed after this date.

PREP catechists and group aides receive a 50% discount.

Return form & payment to: Assumption BVM Religious Education Office
 4101 Old Bethlehem Pike
 Bethlehem, PA, 18015

Make checks payable to: Assumption BVM PREP

Office use only:
 PREP session leader/aide discount: _____ Registration Fee: _____
 Date received: _____ Paid (check date and number): _____

Please turn to reverse side to volunteer for adult service opportunities in religious education.

Assumption B.V.M. Parish Religious Education Programs

Adult Service Opportunities

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Interested Adults;

Peace! Throughout the course of the year, we have a variety of opportunities for adults to give of their time and talents to parish youth programs. Below is a description of some needs. If you are willing to assist in any of these areas, please check the appropriate blank(s). Thank you! God bless you!

Name _____ Phone # _____

_____ **PREP Session Leader:** No Experience necessary; all that is needed is a genuine love for God and for children and a willingness to welcome God's little ones into our parish family through your kindness and enthusiasm. We will train you. (Indicate preferred PREP level: _____)

_____ **PREP Aide:** help lead session leader in session in any way you are comfortable, and at which level you are comfortable (e.g., crafts, input for lessons, etc.); (Indicate preferred PREP level: _____)

_____ **Substitute for PREP sessions:** lead a session when a regular catechist is not available. You would be called in advance and given the lesson as soon as possible. (Indicate preferred PREP level(s): _____)

_____ **PREP Office Assistant:** during PREP sessions; involves making copies; writing out "We Missed You" notes to children, general small duties; assistants work in teams, usually two months during the PREP season (Prefer Sunday morning or Wednesday evening? _____)

_____ **PREP "Group Mom":** help to organize a group's participation in annual food drive, and other outreach activities, organize snacks for your PREP group, etc. (Like a "homeroom mother" in school)

_____ **Social Organizer:** call assistants for Confirmation Reception and other socials; organize food, set-up, host, clean-up social events above (one to three times yearly)

_____ **Parent Meeting Clean Up of Coffee:** stay a few minutes following parent sacramental meetings, (held Sunday mornings from 8:30 – 9:45), clean up coffee and tea water, set up napkins, plates, cups, etc.; (one time to three times yearly)

Circle dates on which you could help: Oct. 11 Oct. 25 Jan. 17

_____ **PREP Snow Chain caller:** making 5-10 (depending on responses) phone calls if PREP is cancelled due to inclement weather

_____ **Childcare during Reconciliation / First Eucharist parent gatherings:** Watch younger siblings of sacramental candidates from 8:25 – 9:45 in Hanlon Center on the following dates. You would serve with teen helpers.

Circle dates on which you could help: Oct. 11 Jan. 17

_____ **PREP Greeter/Traffic Monitor:** stand at door at beginning or end of session to welcome children and enhance security, or monitor crosswalk to ensure safe traffic patterns, etc. (usually 2 months of PREP season)

_____ **Mission Helper:** adults to promote mission awareness by assisting with outreach projects, counting mission donations, etc. Can be during PREP or at other times as you are needed and available.