

St Bridget of Ireland Religious Education

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Dear Parents,

Before heading into summer vacation, let me introduce myself. My name is Albert J. Griffith and I am the new Director of Religious Education. I have been a part of St Bridget of Ireland Church for the past six years. For the past year and a half I have been the Pastoral Assistant to Fr. Gill Babeu. I am a graduate from Holy Apostle Seminary and College, with a degree in Theology and Philosophy. **Though I know Beth Wilson-Jordan has done a great job with our children, I hope that I can earn your trust and faith with your continued support of our children's religious education.**

There will be very few changes made to the program that Ms. Jordan has so diligently put together for the past four years, but it is my hope and prayer to only enhance the program that is already set. For the past twenty some-odd years I have taught religious education at various churches throughout this diocese and others. I have learned so much through the examples of the DRE's such as Joann Tolla from St. Clement Church here in Stamford and Barbara Glynn from St. Catherine of Siena Church, in Riverside Ct. to name a few. Again it is my hope and prayer to only enhance a program that has proven to be successful to our parish family.

To keep our program running smoothly through this transition, please take a moment to register your child (children) for religious education classes to begin in September. The religious education office will be open from 10:30am till 3pm Monday through Wednesday and all registration forms must be received no later than July 28th to ensure proper staffing, books and other necessary materials. Enclosed you will also find a survey to help determine scheduling classes and sacraments. This too should also be completed by July 28th and may be returned in person or by mail.

The 2010-2011 tuition will remain the same as past years, \$110.00 for the first child and \$30.00 for each sibling. St. Bridget has not raised their tuition for some years and we are committed to keeping your cost down. **We can only achieve this through your help and support.** The religious education program is subsidized by our parish family and your continued support of our parish family throughout the year. **This year we are asking all families to volunteer for at least one parish event.** A list will be sent with activities and events that are sponsored throughout the year. For families that choose not to give a helping hand there will be an additional registration charge of \$100.00. **As always, we appreciate all that you do.** Tuition can be paid by cash, check or credit card. St. Bridget is now able to accept Visa or MasterCard as payment, but must be made through the church office.

For students that will be enrolling for the first communion / reconciliation program there is an additional \$50.00 sacrament fee and for students that will be making their confirmation there will be an additional \$100.00 fee. This additional fee includes all retreats and supplies for both communion and confirmation and the rental of gowns for confirmation.

We will also be offering classes for children with learning difficulties. If in any way you feel your child could benefit from such a program please contact me personally. It is my view along with our pastor, Fr. Gill that every child is a gift from God and that he or she should have a loving relationship with our Creator.

Enclosed you will find the necessary forms to choose your payment form, the survey form and the registration form to register your child. This would also be the perfect opportunity to update your communication information (home, work, emergency and cell numbers) as well as your email address. **It is also VERY important that you inform me of any special medical needs that your child may have.**

Finally, I look forward to personally meeting each of you and having a very successful and productive year. Please know that my door and lines of communication will always be open. May you and your family have a plentiful and restful summer.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Albert J. Griffith
Pastoral Assistant/ Director of Religious Education