

Dear St. Barnabas Families:

This Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> is Celebration Sunday at St. Barnabas – the kickoff to our program year at St. Barnabas. We ask that you complete the Sunday School and nursery registration form (see enclosed) by that date so that we may adequately plan our fall program. Sunday School is offered for children from ages 4 through 11. Nursery is provided as a service to our families with infants and children to age 3, but infants and children of all ages are always welcome to attend services with their parents.

Sunday School classes are held during the 10:00 service and conclude in time for the children to join their parents in the worship service at the exchange of the peace (after the sermon and before communion).

Children are encouraged to attend the full worship service periodically throughout the year at our Kid's First services. The "Kid's First" services are designed to allow children to actively participate in the worship and your children will be encouraged to serve as ushers, acolytes, lectors and singers. The schedule for these services is attached.

We continue to offer a Middle and High School Youth Group for children 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The focus is on creating a community life for the teens within their own peer group at St. Barnabas, as well as joining the newly forming high school inter-parish youth group focusing on community service (currently named SERVE). Stay tuned for exciting developments as these two opportunities unfold.

We encourage the continued participation of our youth group in our worship service on a regular basis. Opportunities to read, usher, teach Sunday School, acolyte and Eucharistic minister are available.

The success of our Children and Youth Programs depend upon enough participation to make the program vibrant and engaging for everyone. We urge you to consider making a renewed commitment to St. Barnabas and to the faith formation of your children by regular participation on Sunday morning. We also have a great need for teachers and adult leaders in all our programs and welcome any volunteers for this ministry.

If you have questions, please contact Mary Anne Smith via email at: [msmith@lmnarchitects.com](mailto:msmith@lmnarchitects.com). We look forward to seeing you soon!

*The Reverend Dr. Dennis Tierney and the Christian Formation Commission*