**Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Peace Parish**

314 Chestnut Avenue

Hawley, PA 18428

Reverend Richard W. Beck, Pastor

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August 19, 2019

Dear Families;

We hope this letter finds all of you enjoying the last few weeks of summer! Below you will find important dates and information for the new faith formation year which will begin mid-September.

IMPORTANT DATES:

* **Sunday, September 15**: **Catechetical Sunday** **Mass at 11:30** during which Father Beck will commission our catechists and bless our families for the upcoming faith formation year. Please join us to gratefully acknowledge and support the catechists who volunteer many hours of their time and talent to form the children of our parish in the Catholic faith!
* **Tuesday, September 17**: First day of class for third, fourth and fifth grade students.
* **Thursday, September 19**: First day of class for first and second grade students. **Parent Sacrament Meeting for 2nd Grade Reconciliation/Communion at 3:30 in the Parish Hall**. Families of 1st grade students are invited to meet and greet the teachers at 3:30 pm.
* **Saturday, September 21: 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat** at Dorothy Day Catholic Workers Farm. Bus will pick up from the church parking lot at **9:00 am** and return at **3:00 pm**. Lunch will be provided.
* **Sunday, September 22**: First day of class for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from 9:45 to 11:15. **8th Grade Confirmation class should meet with their parents in the Parish Hall** for a family sacramental prep. meeting. All parents and sponsors are invited to attend but at least one parent should be present.

POLICIES AND INFORMATION

* **Communication:** Our primary form of communication with families will be via email and Remind text notifications. We will also send home a monthly youth bulletin/calendar. Class schedules for Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday are attached. To get information online, please visit our website at: queenofpeacehawley.com and like our Facebook page: QPfaithformation.
* **Pick**-**up**: For the safety of your children, we ask that you meet your child at the white wrought iron gate of the parish center for pick up. We do not allow children to cross the parking lot to meet parents at their cars as this poses a safety hazard. Students attending classes on **Tuesday and Thursday should be picked up at 4:00 pm. Students attending class on Sunday should be picked up at 11:15 am.**
* **Attendance Policy**: *If your child attends classes on Tuesday or Thursday and will be in school but not at faith formation, please call the office to let us know.* We compare our attendance with the school’s absentee list to make certain all children bussed from school arrive safely.

If a Sunday student in grade 6, 7, or 8 is absent, parents are asked to call or email the office to excuse them. **Five** or more absences during the year will be reviewed and may require a meeting with Father Beck, Mrs. Kennedy, the catechist, and parents to determine the future status of the student in the program.

* **Closures**: We follow Wallenpaupack School District’s cancellation policy. If school is closed or after school activities are cancelled, faith formation classes will be cancelled as well. If Sunday classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, we will send text notifications via Remind.

Our goal is to provide a warm, faith-filled experience for your child. We recognize that as parents, you are your child’s first and best teachers of the faith. We are honored to partner with you in your child’s faith formation and encourage family participation by attending Mass, reviewing lessons with your child and encouraging their participation in youth Masses, youth group and other special programs.

Keeping you in our prayers,

Reverend Richard W. Beck, Pastor Mary Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation