

## Summer Religious Education Program

In 2009, a comprehensive two-week Summer Religious Education Program was introduced at St. Columbkille for students in grades 1-8.

For years the primary model for religious education has been scheduled as an academic year from September through May. Many dioceses have come to recognize the need for alternative models.

The documents of Vatican II and beyond clearly offer religious formation a new direction:

- One that respects the role of parents as the primary educators of their children in the faith. A partnership between parents and parish leaders is recognized as essential to the faith formation of children.
- Due to changes in family life, it has been challenging for families to participate in programs scheduled during the academic year. Many children engage in a variety of after-school activities placing religious education in the context of one more activity to fit into an already over-crowded family schedule. The result can be less than satisfactory.

The typical September through May program totals 31 hours of religious formation instruction. The two-week summer program is held three hours daily for two weeks equaling 30 hours.

All models of religious formation strive to proclaim the message of Jesus and invite all people to individual conversion to discipleship. However, it is not possible to fulfill this purpose with a "one size fits all" program.

There is a parent component to complete the registration for the Summer Program. Parents will be expected and accountable for their faith development by attending 4 adult faith formation classes or activities. A completed form must accompany the student registration form. This commitment keeps families connected to the parish throughout the year as well as allows them to continue their ongoing faith formation.

All summer program Catechists are certified teachers from our parish or other parishes in the archdiocese. Class size is limited to 20 students per class.

The 2012 Summer Religious Education Program is June 4—June 15 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Summer Program Registration Forms and Parent Faith Opportunity forms may be found on the website.