



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

all are welcome

Dear Our Lady's Parishioners,

As many of you have probably heard by now, this spring my husband Tim was offered a job at Notre Dame. This school is both our mutual alma mater (sorry BC fans ☺) and a place where we lived for 6 years prior to moving out to Newton. It is also a great job, and a chance for us to move back a little bit closer to both of our families. Basically, it is the type of job that we could not pass up. This means that we are leaving Our Lady's and Newton this July.

Though it wasn't a difficult decision to take the job, it has been very difficult for us to actually contemplate leaving this place, since it has been a home to us full of many wonderful people we have been blessed to know. I just wanted to say thank you for your welcome to us (transplants to the area), and for ALL of the tremendous things you have done to help me — and more importantly to advance the faith formation of the young people in this parish.

The parish put together a hiring committee for the position of Youth Minister involving staff, catechists, and youth group members, and they came out of the process with a terrific “catch” in Kristina Lukach. In this mailing, there is also a letter of introduction from Kristina, but I just wanted to let you know that I could not be more thrilled to be leaving the Junior High and High School programs in her very capable hands. I know that she will be a huge asset to the community and will do wonderful things for these programs.

It is my great hope that you will continue to use your own tremendous gifts in service to the young people of the parish and the new youth minister. One of the hardest things about entering a new ministry job is not knowing anyone, and especially not knowing who you can call upon for help. I encourage you to PLEASE introduce yourself to Kristina and volunteer to help out with some aspect of the programs this year — whether it is to teach in the Junior High or Confirmation program, help as a hall/attendance monitor, volunteer to chaperone retreats and trips, or just to generally call up and offer your name and phone number in case anything ever comes up that she needs help with. If you have never volunteered before, this is the perfect time to start. Your experience and familiarity with these programs will help to smooth the transition for the parish and especially the young people of Our Lady's.

In case I do not see you before I leave, I just wanted all of you to know how much I have treasured knowing you and working with you at Our Lady's. I wish you all of God's blessings, peace and joy.

Peace,

Kara O'Malley



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Dear Parents of Confirmation Candidates,

I am writing to introduce myself by letter, but I look forward to meeting you all in person as the summer continues and fall approaches. Starting in early July, Kara and I will be working side by side, before she moves on and I take over. I am thrilled and honored to be joining the team at Our Lady's and to have the opportunity to guide her young people in faith formation. Originally, I am from Shrewsbury, MA, but I have been in the Boston area for school for six years now. In May, I earned a master's degree in pastoral ministry from the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, and I also received my bachelor's degree in theology, also from BC. The coming months will be a busy time at Our Lady's, and I am very excited to learn about the parish and especially about all of you!

All of our Confirmation Students will begin classes on Sunday, September 19. We will meet for a brief orientation and then go to the 6:00 p.m. Mass together. As you can see, your child(ren)'s form(s) for re-registering for next year are enclosed. If you have a new student starting, you can download a blank registration form at our website, www.ourladys.com, or call the office and we will mail you one. **PLEASE RETURN THESE FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1ST!** We must receive a registration form from each student, regardless of whether they have been in the program in the past. It will be impossible to grant special requests for catechists or classmates if your form is received after September 1.

The Confirmation Program entirely relies on the services of volunteers who lead small discussion groups of 8-10 kids each class session. This is an enriching experience of faith-sharing for both the students and the adult leaders. In their exit interviews, Confirmation students tell us over and over how much they appreciated the dedication and the insight of their small group leader. It really makes a difference. We are truly grateful for the commitment of so many wonderful people already involved, but we need more help in order to run a quality program. **PLEASE consider volunteering as a group leader (or co-leader) or as an attendance monitor for the program.** The time commitment for this program is smaller since we only have 10 classes each year. As a group leader, you will attend the same presentations the students do, lead them in discussions (with questions provided), and help them with a group service project at the soup kitchen. For those of you who serve in some capacity each class, your tuition will be waived. Please call me to discuss possibilities in the near future.

Next year, Our Lady's will once again offer Parish Faith Festivals, which will be held the weekend of February 4-6, with identical programs running Friday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday morning (each family/parishioner will be asked to choose ONE).

There is so much to look forward to in the coming year! The parish staff would like to affirm your choice to educate your children in our faith and your efforts to form them as disciples of Jesus Christ, as well as encourage your own ongoing faith development. I hope you have a relaxing and refreshing summer!

Sincerely,

Kristina Lukach
Youth Minister
Director of Religious Education, Grades 6-10

**Our Lady Help of Christians Religious Education Registration Form
2010-2011 (Classes Begin September 19th)
CONFIRMATION PROGRAM (GRADES 9-10)**

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____ Gender _____ Grade in School _____ Grade in Rel Ed _____ If new, previous Rel Ed? _____

Address _____ Emergency Contact (NOT Parent) _____

Phone _____ Parent/Guardian Cell Phone _____ Parent's Name(s) _____

Family E-Mail Address: _____

Mailing address of non custodial parent/guardian if different than above: _____

Sacrament Rec'd: Baptism Y N Church: _____ Date: _____
 Eucharist Y N Church: _____ Date: _____
 Confirmation Y N Church: _____ Date: _____

Child's School: _____

Allergies/Medical Conditions: _____

Special Classroom Needs or Concerns: _____

VOLUNTEERS: Fee is waived ONLY if your commitment is for EVERY class

Catechist _____ Asst Catechist _____ Grade _____ Teach your own child? Y N

Hall/Attendance Monitor _____ Retreat Chaperone _____ Grade _____

Help with Special Needs Children _____ Parish Faith Festival Committee _____

Help with Special/Service Events _____

ONE FRIEND with whom your child would like to be placed (9th Grade ONLY—10th graders will remain with small group)

Fee: \$100.00 per child. Children are NEVER refused admittance to the program because of an inability to pay. Hardship, illness, unemployment or other significant reasons are understood. Otherwise, we expect that this fee will be taken care of by the family. Please speak with Kristina or make checks payable to Our Lady's. Mail completed form to: Our Lady's Parish, Attn: Kristina Lukach, 573 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02458.

If you are new to the parish and not yet registered with the parish, please register with the parish via our website at www.ourladys.com. A copy of your child's baptismal certificate should also be attached IF you are new to the programs and NOT baptized at Our Lady's.

CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 19TH. Special Requests for class placement and session WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED if this form is received after September 1st. Please call Kristina with questions at 617-527-7560 ext 216.