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## OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

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*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 Junior High Students,

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 the 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!

Please mark your calendars: this year, **Junior High classes begin on Monday, September 20.** 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](http://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 1<sup>ST</sup>!** 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.

It is truly a gift to be able to partner with you to provide your children with instruction and experiences of their faith tradition. **However, a quality program is only possible with the help of volunteers.** It is only when people generously share their faith, time, resources, and talents that our community can continue to thrive. We are truly grateful for the commitment of so many wonderful people already involved. Next year, we would ideally like two teachers in each room (partly for safety reasons!) as well as volunteers to help out as hall monitors during class time. During the past year, Kara was forced to put more students in classes than she would have liked due to a lack of volunteers. The ideal class-size for this age group is 8-10 students, but Kara was forced to put TWICE that many together in some classes. **PLEASE** volunteer to prevent that from happening again!! **The more people who step forward to help, the better the experience is for each catechist and each student.** Our volunteer needs (on top of returners) are up to **at least 14** new volunteers. For those of you who serve in some capacity every week your child's tuition will be waived. Though this seems like a huge commitment at the beginning of the year, it is truly manageable and (I swear!) a rewarding experience. Please call Kristina to discuss possibilities in the near future.

*~ Please see reverse side*

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). Our personal safety curriculum will continue in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades, and we continue to offer the chastity curriculum to Grade 8 parents and students. Finally, our parish will once again be taking part in the ARISE program, and this will have effects on all of parish life, including our Religious Education Programs.

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. Please know that we want to support you in any way we can! 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 20<sup>th</sup>)  
GRADES 6-8**

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 week

Catechist \_\_\_\_\_ Asst Catechist \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teach your own child?    Y    N

Safety Curriculum Instructor (4 classes) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Preferred \_\_\_\_\_ Hall Monitor \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$75.00 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 via our website at [www.ourladys.com](http://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 20<sup>TH</sup>. Special Requests for class placement and session WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED if this form is received after September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please call Kristina with questions at 617-527-7560 ext 216.