

# The Good Shepherd Children's Summer Retreat

## (Vacation Bible School)



The staff and volunteers of the School of Religious Education at Saint Mary Star of the Sea Parish are in the preliminary stages of planning and preparing a children's retreat program for August 2009. The retreat is scheduled for August 10-15, 9:00am (8:15am for those eating breakfast at the Church) to 5:00pm. We are considering an earlier release of 2:30pm for pre-school/ kindergarten students.

The theme of the retreat will focus on the scriptural teachings and prayers of "The Luminous Mysteries," but it will also include activities such as sports (soccer), games, music, and crafts. We are allowing for the idea of a special program for the children and their families on Saturday, August 16 which may include a family picnic following the Saturday Virgil Mass.

Rita Beebe has been doing an outstanding job organizing and coordinating these retreats for many years and has now agreed to do so again this year. Now it is time to honor her efforts by volunteering to assist with this year's program. We need to have of as many as 30 volunteers to make this a successful retreat. Adults and teenagers (9<sup>th</sup> grade and above) are needed as presenters, musicians (voice, piano, guitar, and drums), clean-up crews, food handlers, recess and meal monitors, and many persons to help with crafts. Those parishioners who make Holy Rosaries are sought in particular. These are just a few examples of the things we need help with in order to offer a valuable learning experience to the children of our parish and their friends. Please don't procrastinate and wait for someone else to answer your baptismal call.

PLEASE STOP BY THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE OR THE PARISH OFFICE AND SIGN UP IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS RETREAT. I HAVE SCHEDULED A PLANNING SESSION FOR MARCH 15 IN THE PARISH HALL.

*Deacon Bill Swanson*