



Church of St. Mary
Dominican Friars

August 29, 2017

Dear current and prospective Atrium families –

The summer is rapidly winding down and soon we will begin another year of religious education here at St. Mary's. There are two important updates about the Atrium program that I wish to share with you.

The first is that, in response to increased demand, and thanks to the dedication of some of our catechists, we are happy to announce that we will be adding a **fourth** option for Level 1 instruction beginning this year! This session will meet on Monday mornings. More details about the Monday morning Atrium can be found elsewhere in this registration packet.

The second is that, for those families who have been involved in our Atrium in previous years, you will notice that we have increased the registration fees for the program. This was a decision I made as Pastor after learning earlier this summer that the fee schedule we had been previously using was not coming even close to covering the actual expenses of the program. In addition, our catechists—besides the countless hours of time they were spending in teaching—were also spending significant amounts of their own money to purchase materials for the program. So we sat down this summer to calculate what the actual expenses of the program are and then established a new fee structure with the intention of covering the material expenses of the program as well as generating some funds to assist with the cost of training future catechists. The hope is that this will enable us to not merely maintain but continue to grow the Atrium program in the years ahead.

Let me end by saying that I would never, ever want the cost of the program to become an obstacle to any family wanting to enroll their children. If any of you are in the situation where the increased fees represent a heavy burden, please contact me directly about this. I will be more than willing to work with you privately to see that your children can participate without this being a burden on your family finances.

I'm looking forward, as I am sure you are as well, to making this year the best year yet for our Atrium here at St. Mary's.

God bless,

Rev. John Paul Walker, O.P.

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Pastor