

Dear Saint Columba Parishoner,

Enclosed you will find a registration form for the 2018-19 Saint Columba Church Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball program.

The CYO basketball program is a wonderful opportunity for your child to participate in team and athletic competition in an environment that emphasizes the values and beliefs of our Catholic faith. The success our program has enjoyed throughout the past cannot be measured by simply counting wins and losses; instead, the standards we set for our program are based on the children not only becoming better players, but better people as a result of the CYO experience. We hope this philosophy parallels yours as the parent of a child eligible for participation in this program and you will consider signing them up for this season.

Some facts about the CYO program:

- ❖ For your child to be eligible to participate in CYO basketball, they must attend Saint Columba School or be a parishoner of Saint Columba Church and actively participate in the parish CYE program. Only boys and girls from third through sixth grade can participate in the program.
- ❖ Our program is an officially sanctioned program operating within the Dioceses of Harrisburg. Our league consists of teams from Danville, Elysburg, Mount Carmel, Kulpmont, Shamokin and Coal Township.
- ❖ Voluntary practices typically begin in late October, with the practice season formally beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. The league games usually begin early December and extend into mid-February.
- ❖ Our coaching staff is made up of caring and passionate individuals, almost all of whom have or had children in the program. Each coach undergoes beginner's training conducted by the Dioceses to be authorized to coach in the program and annual refresher training to continue coaching. All coaches have been personally approved by our pastor, Monsignor Lawrence, to represent our church in that capacity.
- ❖ The amount of teams within our Saint Columba CYO program has varied through the years based on the number of children participating. At times there have been teams for each grade level; other times a team will consist of children from multiple grade levels. Occasionally, there are enough children that we have fielded two teams from the same grade level. Regardless of this changing dynamic, we are committed to tailoring our teams to ensuring your child gets the most of their CYO experience.

- ❖ The younger level, generally made up of third and fourth grade children, places a significant emphasis on teaching your child basic basketball fundamentals and teamwork. As the child progresses through the later levels, competition demands a higher emphasis on discipline, sportsmanship, and dedication. As expected, the difference between winning and losing also becomes more important to your child through the years they participate in the program; you can expect that our staff, in recognizing that, will ensure your child is taught to manage victory and defeat with dignity and respect for their opponent, and to represent Saint Columba Church with the highest regard. Finally, in all the levels of our program, we expect your child to have fun!

In order for your child to participate in this program, you must complete the registration form and submit it before **October 21st**; however, I urge you to complete it as soon as possible in order for our staff to be better able to gauge the number of players in each level and decide the amount of teams needed for everyone to participate. Completed registrations can be returned to Saint Columba School or Parish Office. As in years past, our annual lottery fundraiser will be linked with our registration process. A registration fee of \$100 per child, \$75 per second or subsequent child from the same family, will be required upon submission of the registration form, with checks made payable to **Saint Columba CYO Basketball Program**. Upon the beginning of the basketball season, families will then be given the amount of \$5 lottery tickets equivalent to what they paid in registration fees to enable them to reduce or eliminate the fee they paid by selling the tickets. If you decide not to sell your tickets, you simply keep them and increase your chances to win at the lottery.

Finally, if you know anyone else who is interested in enrolling their child in the CYO program, please feel free to forward a copy of this letter and registration form to them, or have them contact me by e-mail at [ssblakefamily6@gmail.com](mailto:ssblakefamily6@gmail.com), or by calling me at 570-912-2607.

Hope to see you and your child on the basketball court this season!

Respectfully,

Scott Blake  
Program Director  
Saint Columba CYO Basketball Program