



June 1, 2019

Dear Families,

Welcome to the parish Religious Education Program! Our program here at St. Christopher's aims at fostering an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, and hopes to equip our young people with an understanding of and appreciation for our Catholic faith and how God works within our daily lives. Another important mission of our Religious Education Program is to help children become intellectually enlightened about their faith and grow in understanding and appreciation for the Mass. Attending Mass each week with your child and praying together as a family is a way to inspire lifelong devotion to the Catholic faith.

Parents catechize their children primarily through the lived experience of the faith and through conversations often brought about by specific occasions. The parish Religious Education program exists in order to support you in your role as the primary catechists of your household by providing a systematic presentation of the basics of the Catholic faith. When this systematic presentation resonates with the child's lived experience of the faith in the home, it becomes deeply meaningful and lasts a lifetime.

Please take a moment to look over our Family Handbook. In it you will find information about all of our policies including pick-up, dismissal, weather closings, and more. Please also read over our Code of Conduct with your child; all registered students within our Religious Ed program as well as their parents/guardians are expected to adhere by this throughout the year so that we can ensure an environment of fruitful learning.

If you have a child preparing to receive a sacrament this year you will notice some changes to our program. **This year all of the Sacramental Prep programs have been separated out from the regular Religious Education classes.** This is so that we are in line with our Diocesan Policy. Diocesan Policy clearly states that all Sacramental Prep programs must be distinct and separate from the regular Religious Ed instruction. **That being said, if you have a child who is preparing to**

receive a sacrament this year you will need to register them for both Religious Ed and Sacramental Prep. Each Sacramental Prep Program has a separate calendar which can be found on the parish website. **If you are registering for Sacramental Prep attendance is required for ALL sessions.**

For the regular Religious Ed class options our monthly Family Catechesis option is also available again this year and will meet once a month on Sunday from 10-11AM. For this particular model of Family Catechesis, parents will stay with their children for the monthly lesson and then work at home to complete the take-home lessons throughout the rest of the month. This session is an additional option to our other weekly class offerings (Sunday 8AM-8:50AM, & Wednesday 6:30-7:45PM). We realize that many of our families have busy schedules so this monthly option with a take-home component might be something to consider if you would like the flexibility of going to any Mass each weekend. **Please note- if you have children in sacramental years (2nd or 8th grades) or middle school years (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades) their classes will continue to meet weekly.** If you have a child in middle school and would like them to participate in the Family Catechesis option they can, but they are still required to attend their weekly Religious Ed classes in addition to the monthly option. If you have any questions about this please contact our DRE.

I along with all the catechists and Religious Ed volunteers hope to partner with you in the faith formation of your children. We are thankful to our dedicated volunteer catechists who strive to provide age appropriate and meaningful catechesis for students each time we meet. I look forward to getting to know you and your children and hope that we can journey together towards a closer relationship with God and His presence in our daily lives. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

*Katie Sukley*

Katie Sukley Director of Religious Education