



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church  
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October 22, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

One of the Archbishop's requests of me in becoming pastor was that the parish should be as attentive as possible to the young people of our parish. As a parish, not only our future but also our present is to be found in our youth and young adults and young families!

I am very proud of the response of many in our parish who have so quickly taken up the task of offering religious education to our youth. We have about 15 children in the two grades of our Parish School of Religion. About half of them will make their First Holy Communion in May. We have another 4 children who are beginning this weekend to prepare to become Catholic at Easter. And we have 3 high school juniors who are beginning preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in May. I am deeply grateful to the young people, their parents, and especially the catechists who are all working to make the faith come alive in the hearts of our youth!

Another way that we can fan the flame of faith in our young people is by encouraging them to serve during the Mass. One of the greatest influences in my faith as a young person was through serving as an altar boy at Mass. I began as an altar boy in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and continued to serve well into high school. Since we currently have only a few young altar servers, we are blessed right now with many generous adults who step in to serve at the altar during Mass. However, I think it would bear great fruit for our parish to encourage our youth to take part in this role of service. Serving at the altar will be open to young people from 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school. We will have two training sessions: November 4th and November 11th, both from 9:30-10:30am in church. If you have any questions, talk to Fr. Jonathan after Mass or email him at [jhemelt@arch-no.org](mailto:jhemelt@arch-no.org). To sign up to be a server, please call or email the parish office: 488-2659 or [office@ourladyoftherosary-no.com](mailto:office@ourladyoftherosary-no.com).

To accommodate young families with babies, we have purchased a changing station. It is located in the vesting room to the right of the baptistery (where the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ushers prepare for Mass). If you see parents of a baby, you may mention to them that this is now provided for them.

Let us continue to pray that our parish will hand on the faith that we have received to the future generations of Catholics so that all of us may grow together in holiness.

To Jesus through Mary,

Fr. Jonathan  
[jhemelt@arch-no.org](mailto:jhemelt@arch-no.org)