

ST. MARY'S / ST. THERESA'S PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of our Parish Religious Education Program is: to journey in faith with children and families. To transmit the Christian message with excellence and love so that, through the closeness with the person of Jesus Christ, each may live lives that transform society.

Our aim is to maintain the Lord's presence among us by transmitting the Gospel as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it and communicates it in myriad ways, keeping always in mind that this is the gift of God through the operation of the Holy Spirit.

PARENTAL ROLE

Parents are primarily responsible for the religious development of their children. How a child prays and worships God and how she/he relates to others in a Christian way are values which children are already experiencing before they begin formal religious education in the first grade. These are values that grow mainly because of the religious environment of the home.

As stated in our mission statement, we aim *"to transmit the Christian message with excellence and love"*. To do this, we understand that there needs to be an atmosphere of mutual respect and preparedness in each group. Students should arrive on time, come prepared with their books, pencils, folders, etc, and participate appropriately to the best of their abilities. **Verbal abuse or humiliation will not be tolerated on the part of student or catechist.** Because regular and consistent class attendance is necessary for instruction to be effective, every effort should be made to avoid absences

For learning to truly take place, children need to review, use, teach others and integrate into their lives the information they have been given. For this reason, and especially because of the time lapse between classes, catechists are encouraged to require some type of written or practical work to be done between class times. Parents need to ask children about homework and see that child follows through.

The Eucharist, the center of our life of faith, is the focal point of religious education and growth in faith. The main purpose of the programs offered by the parish catechesis is to reinforce a Eucharistic spirituality. **It is therefore essential and expected that the children attend Mass each weekend.**

CATECHIST ROLE

Catechists are people who pass on the Christian message through word and witness as faithfully as they are able. Our catechists are parish volunteers who have the tasks of: Promoting knowledge of the faith, Liturgical education, Moral formation, Teaching to pray, Education for community life, and Missionary initiative.