



Saints Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church

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Dear Parents / Guardians,

August 1, 2017

Welcome and thank you for registering your child/children in our parish Religious Education Program. You as parents/guardians are the most important educators for your children. The National Directory for Catechesis states the following: "The catechesis given by parents with the family, "precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis." When children are baptized, **parents** accept the responsibility to bring up their children to the **practice** of the faith and to see to it that the **divine** life that God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts. At the same time, the Church promises to help parents foster their children's faith and assists them specifically in their role as catechists of their children, whether they assume complete responsibility themselves or look to the parish school or religious education program for help and support."

With this in mind, we at the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Religious Education Program want to make sure all is being done to help our parish youth grow in their spiritual lives. One of the most important ways to grow in the faith life is to receive the sacraments **worthily**. With this understanding, we must make sure as parents, guardians, and catechists that the children are going to Mass on Sundays. **This is our most important obligation as Catholics.** It is by going to Mass and receiving the sacraments that our souls are being fed with God's grace, which strengthens us to reach our goal of eternal life in heaven. If we fail to receive the sacraments, we are literally starving our souls and spiritual death takes place. Living in today's culture, we need to make sure our youth are spiritually strong to be able to handle the issues they face in their daily lives and ultimately live in eternal joy with God.

The Religious Education Handbook has been updated this year and all families must sign an acknowledgment form that they have read and agree to cooperate with the parish policies. The changes include a change in the drop off and pick up procedures and more. This year there will be a Mandatory parents meeting in the Church on Wednesday, August 30 following the 6:00pm evening Mass. The meeting will go over all the changes. Students are encourage to attend with their parents.

This year our program will focus on *Church and Prayer*. Every grade from Kinder to 11th will be instructed on these topics and will be provided a list of prayers to learn throughout the year.

Working together side by side, parents and Church, your child will come to know and love God in a truly personal relationship. When we work together, our children will have a chance to live the life that our heavenly Father wants to share with all His children, an eternal life in heaven. May God bless each of us during the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Kim Ulcak

