

*St. Anthony Catholic Church*  
*317 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.*  
*Laurel, MT 59044*

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Dear Parent Catechist,

Although our past year of RE at the parish was sadly cut a little short, we plan to begin again on schedule in the Fall. I hope that you and your family are having a peaceful and recreational summer!

I address you as parent catechists as a reminder that no parish program can take your place in the religious education of your children. At most, we will be with your children for 23 hours for the whole year! One hour a week for 23 weeks is pretty insignificant compared to the many hours you are with your children in just one week. As a parish, we want to do everything we can to assist you in raising your children Catholic; to know, love and serve our good God so that we can all enjoy Him forever in heaven.

In order to better assist you in your role as parent catechists, we are making some minor changes for the upcoming year. We will begin our Wednesday afternoon sessions all together (that means you too!) in the church at 4:00 PM to pray the Rosary. Families are encouraged to sit together for this. Children will go to their classrooms afterwards, from 4:30-5:30. We will all come back to the church (please be there by 5:30) for Benediction at 5:35. You will then be on your way home with your children by 5:40. Please understand that by signing your children up for RE you are committing to the whole program, and not just dropping off your children for class at 4:30. Please contact me if you have a conflict that would prevent your participation.

During the class-time hour, I will be facilitating an optional class for parents. This hour will be a mixture of catechetical instruction for you, a time for parents to share ideas with one another, and to encourage one another in the challenging task of raising children Catholic. I hope we will have some good discussions! Children who are not old enough for class are welcome here! As another option, I would encourage you to spend the class-time hour praying in the church where the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar. Younger children are welcome there too. And a third option, of course, would be for you to help teach one of our classes for our children!

One essential component of a child's Catholic education and spiritual growth is the regular attendance at Mass with his or her family. Sunday Mass attendance, here or at another parish, is part of the program. The way we approach catechism in our RE program is intimately tied to the way Mass is celebrated at our parish—traditional catechism for traditional liturgy. *Lex orandi, lex credendi*: the way we worship forms our beliefs. Our Mass times are Saturday at 5:30; and Sunday 8:45 and 11:00.

Please fill out the forms enclosed and return to the office or put in the wooden lock-box in the Narthex of the church by September 1<sup>st</sup>. I look forward to another year of knowing, loving and serving our gracious God!

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Bart