

Letter to Parents: 2020-2021 Catechetical Year

Dear Parents,

The parish is “the *Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters*” (*Christifideles Laici*, 26). She is a house that brings many “domestic churches” (family houses) together to worship the Lord on Sunday. She also accompanies each family in their personal journey to God.

The parish is aware of the urgent need to strengthen the faith of the family through a renewal of the Sunday culture. This implies two things: 1) celebrating the Holy Mass as a family, and 2) families spending time together. The catechism teaches us that “there is nothing children long for more than for their parents to take plenty of time for them on Sunday. This very human longing has a deep religious foundation in the Sunday commandment” (*YOUCAT for Kids*, 176). The parish envisions families to celebrate the Sunday Mass together and to spend the rest of the day doing enjoyable activities. Indeed, “taking time for each other and being good to one another—that is Sunday, and it reflects God’s way of being” (*YOUCAT for Kids*, 176).

Sharing the faith with your children is another way the parish wishes to strengthen family life. “It goes without saying that Christian parents are the primary and irreplaceable catechists of their children, a task for which they are given the grace by the Sacrament of Matrimony.” (*Christifideles Laici*, 34). The parish wishes to accompany parents by providing assistance and guidance in their task to be their child’s “primary and irreplaceable catechists.”

The parish will offer assistance on Wednesdays to help parents fulfill this sacred duty. Parents are welcomed to come in from 5:30-6:30 to ask questions, seek guidance, or request catechetical instruction on any aspect of the faith. Parents who need some extra help in catechizing their children, a catechist aid will be available to go over any topic you are currently discussing at home. Children preparing for a sacrament will receive specific sacramental instruction from the parish in the spring (see sacramental year calendar). If a parent needs more than just extra help for their child, please contact the director of parish catechesis to discuss other options.

We will continue to hold our monthly parish events. They are scheduled on the first Wednesday of every month starting in October (see monthly parish events calendar). This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other families in the parish as we learn and worship together.

We hope by renewing the Sunday culture and having parents be their child’s catechist we may bring new vitality to the Church and families.

Your Brother in Christ,

Carlos Gamundi, Ph.D.

Director of Parish Catechesis