



SAINT ANDREW

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

August 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The primary responsibility of a Catholic parent is to prepare their child for the lifelong journey to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. When a couple is preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony, we ask them if they will accept children as a gift from God and to educate them in the ways of the faith. During the Catholic wedding ceremony, the couple is asked, "Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?"¹ In both instances, during sacrament preparation and during the Sacrament itself the couple answer in the affirmative.

At the baptism of a child, parents are asked, "In asking for Baptism for your child, you are undertaking the responsibility of raising him (her) in the faith, so that, keeping God's commandments, he (she) may love the Lord and his (her) neighbor as Christ has taught us. Do you understand this responsibility?" The parents, and godparents answer in the affirmative. Moments later the parents and godparents renounce sin, three times, and Profess their Faith. Just before the priest or deacon pours water over the child's head, once again, the parents and godparents affirm their desire for the child to be baptized in the faith of the Catholic Church. During the final blessing, the prayer is made, with the help of God that the parents may, by word and example, prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their child, in Christ Jesus our Lord.²

One essential component of the duties of a Pastor of a Catholic Parish is the assistance he, and his staff, give to parents (and indeed all the faithful) to grow stronger in their understanding and relationship with God. "For, [God] calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. God calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church."³

You signed an agreement before you were married, then in the church, in midst of family and friends, vowed to teach your children the faith and to bring them up in the traditions, understandings, rituals and liturgies of the Catholic Church. Serious stuff!

¹ Catholic Church, *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, Reprint (Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 2008), paragraphs 35, 60, 94

² Catholic Church, *The Order of Baptism of Children*, (Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 2020),

³ Catholic Church, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd Ed. (Washington, DC: United States Catholic Conference, 2000), 7.

The Parish and School staff stand ready to help parents to be the first, best and ongoing teachers of the faith in thought, word, deed and actions. We partner with parents and guardians as they journey with their children on the way to the Kingdom and Everlasting Life.

If a child is enrolled in the Parochial school, they receive instruction in the faith both in the classroom and in the school environment. **Based on our information your child does not attend the Catholic School; therefore, they are to be enrolled in the Parish Faith Formation program.** Parents, guardians and grandparents need to model the faith. They need to pray with their children, attend mass together, learn of the beauties of the Church, the saints, our traditions, our prayers, our beliefs and values, our core commitment knowing the value of every life, born and unborn, and each person should be respected as a child of God, for so indeed they are!

Beginning August 24 enrollment will open for the Parish Faith Formation program. At Saint Andrew Parish we use a family based religious education model. We use **A Family of Faith**, a product of Sophia Press. The curriculum is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Lessons are enhanced with sacred art, lives of the saints, scripture and prayer. Parents are brought together at the beginning of the month to learn (or review) the concepts and material they will share with their children. Children come together monthly to review the lessons as a group and to support each other in prayer and activities.

It is expected, as a parishioner of Saint Andrew Catholic Parish and School that as parents you are modeling and living your life in Christ, and that your children are receiving instruction in the Catholic faith, learning their prayers, attending mass and receiving the sacraments. Catholic children receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist in the Second Grade and Confirmation after their 15th birthday. Sacramental preparation programs are announced in the bulletin, on Facebook, Instagram and on our website.

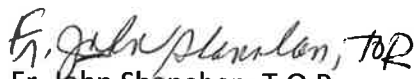
Your questions can be answered by checking on the Parish website

<https://www.standrewcc.org/childrens-catechesis> or by contacting the Office of Faith Formation and Evangelization at (817) 927-5383.

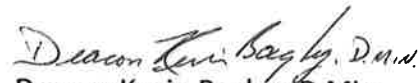
Peace and Blessings,



Fr. Jim Gigliotti, T.O.R.
Pastor



Fr. John Shanahan, T.O.R.
Parochial Vicar



Deacon Kevin Bagley, D.Min.
Director of Faith Formation