

## **RocKenRo Parish Grouping of Holy Trinity, Saint John of God, and Saint Malachy**

September 12, 2019

Dear parents,

The bishops at the Second Vatican Council taught: “Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators.” Many parishes try to help parents in their sacred duty. Our parish grouping offers Archangel Gabriel Elementary School and two religious education faith formation programs to assist you in your sacred duty as parents.

Sometime parents registered outside of Holy Trinity, Saint John of God, or Saint Malachy nevertheless rely on our parish grouping’s offerings for the education of their children. Sometimes parents from one of our three parishes rely on the offerings of other parishes or Catholic schools. Still others assume all the responsibility themselves, via homeschooling.

The educational choices of the parents, whatever they may be, do not thereby sever the relationship of a child to his or her parish. Especially when it comes to Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation, the Church presumes that children will receive these sacraments in the parish of which their parents are registered members. Parents may request exceptions by asking their home pastor to authorize the administration of these sacraments of initiation at another location.

More simply:

- If you are **not** registered at one of the RocKenRo parishes of Holy Trinity, Saint John of God, or Saint Malachy but your children are enrolled here and you want your children to receive any of the sacraments of initiation here, you’ll need to ask your home pastor for a letter authorizing this.
- If you are registered at Holy Trinity, Saint John of God, or Saint Malachy but your children are enrolled outside the RocKenRo Grouping and you want your children to receive the sacraments of initiation there, you’ll likely need a letter from me authorizing this. Please include in your request the name, parish, and address of the pastor who’ll receive the letter.

Our Lord commanded us to make disciples of all people and teach them of him. Thank you for the witness you bear to Jesus Christ by providing for the religious education of your children.

Yours in Christ,



(Rev.) Dave Poecking