



ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

P A R I S H

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A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

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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. Archangel Gabriel Parish offers to assist you in your sacred duties as parents via (a) an elementary school or (b) a religious education faith formation ministry.

Sometime parents registered outside of Archangel Gabriel Parish rely on our offerings for the education of their children. Sometimes parents from this parish rely on the offerings of other parishes or Catholic schools other than Archangel Gabriel Catholic School. Still others assume all the responsibility themselves, via homeschooling.

The educational choices of the parents, whatever they may be, do not 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 Archangel Gabriel Parish 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 Archangel Gabriel Parish but you want your children to receive the sacraments of initiation at another parish, 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