

Saint Anthony Catholic Church

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Dear Parent Catechist,

I pray that you and your families are well and that you are having a blessed 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.

We will continue to use *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* this year for five- and six-year-olds. This is for children who turn 5 by **September 27th, 2023 (our first class)**. As of now, we are not offering a class for Pre-K. If you would like to volunteer to teach Pre-K, please let me know!

In a change from last year, children Kindergarten through **6th grade** will gather in the Church at 3:50 PM (***with you!***) to pray a portion of the Holy Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. After the Rosary, children will be dismissed to their respective classrooms. Classes will be held from 4:15-5:15. Then all will go back to the church for Benediction, which will start promptly at 5:20. This is to accommodate choir practice which begins at 5:30 PM. You are strongly encouraged to sit with your children for Benediction and afterwards they are released to go home with you. If you will be late to pick up your child, please let the teacher know and after Benediction the teacher will keep them in the classroom until your arrival. 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 4:15 classes. **Please contact me if you have a conflict that would prevent your participation.**

During the class-time hour, I would encourage you to spend the hour praying in the church where the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar. And if you ask ahead of time, I would be happy to hear your confession. Another option, of course, would be for you to help teach (or be an assistant for) one of our classes for our children! Please let me know if you are interested.

As before, the **7th- 8th Grade** junior high class and the high school class will meet from 7:00 – 8:30 PM on Wednesdays, **beginning September 27th**.

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 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 daily Mass times are Tuesday, 5:30 PM, Wed - Sat, 9:00 AM, Saturday Vigil at 5:30 PM, and Sunday Mass at 8:45 and 11:00 AM.

The registration forms are available on our website and in the Narthex. Please fill out the registration forms and return to the office by September 6th. Our RE parent orientation meeting will be on September 24th at 12:30 PM.

I look forward to another year of knowing, loving and serving our gracious God!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Bart