

Dear Parents of PREP Students,

We would like to welcome you and your family to our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) for the 2023-2024 year school year. You are a wonderful blessing to your children for providing for their spiritual formation in the Catholic Faith. We look forward to a fun, prayerful, and holy academic year!

The goal of the St. Catharine's Religious Education Program is to assist you, the parents, in teaching your children to know, love and serve God. The most important phase of the students' religious development is the role of the parents to provide a home environment where God is known, loved and served and where faith is able to grow. Your children learned about forgiveness and charity by experiencing it from you. The best teachers lead by example, and you are no different when you attend Mass as a family, pray before meals and at bedtime, and make your home one of love. I encourage you to meet Jesus in the Eucharist as a family both at Mass and at Adoration, and to make attendance at PREP a priority.



This year we are excited to introduce a new curriculum for students in Levels 1-6. We will be using the **Word of Life** program from The Augustine Institute. This curriculum not only provides faithful teaching, but also explains why the Catholic faith is relevant in our modern culture. Through the use of engaging print and online student interactions, digital media enhancements for use in the classroom and at home, and parent and family faith formation, the **Word of Life program strives to unite the family in the faith formation process.**

This year, all students will have a choice between 2 models of faith formation.

- **Wednesday evening classroom instruction** where our parish catechists are eager to assist you, the parent, in the task of leading your children to know, love, and serve God. These devoted volunteers from our parish have come forward to share their faith with the children of our parish, and they are dedicated to teaching children about our faith. We are thankful to them for their commitment to our program. Students will bring home a Family Faith page to complete each week.
- **Family Catechesis** is a family-centered opportunity for parents to catechize their children directly. Lessons may be completed as a family each week at home. Progress is tracked through the online platform at Word of Life.

All students and parents, regardless of the model you choose, are expected to create an account in the Word of Life online portal. Students missing class for any reason should complete the chapter in the online portal before the next class. We will hold an information session for parents August 15, 2023 in the social hall immediately following the evening Mass for the feast of the Assumption of Mary to introduce the new program and explain the online portal.

**Our first classroom class will be Wednesday, September 13. We will begin the year by celebrating Mass as a PREP Community at 6:30pm at the church.** All other classes (beginning September 20) will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at St. Catharine's School.

Thank you for the faith foundation you have given to your children and allowing us the opportunity to join with you in teaching and sharing our Catholic faith. We look forward to a wonderful year! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Zambito.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Brian Miller

Marci Zambito - Director of Religious Education

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