

June 2019

Dear Religious Education Families,

We hope this letter finds you and your children well and enjoying the beginning of a well-deserved summer break.

Fr. George, the parish leadership team, and I have two major goals for our religious education program:

- #1 Religious education families attend Mass together every week
- #2 Parents embrace their role as primary educators of their children's faith

"You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand the commitment you are undertaking?"

The revitalization of our religious education program began with Family Faith Formation days last year and continues into the 2019-2020 year with an even greater emphasis on supporting you in your role as primary educator in your child's faith. In order for the faith formation of children to be effective, Fr. George, the parish leadership team, and I believe we need to move away from a classroom environment where one adult teaches a group of children to a place where parents actively form their children through weekly Mass attendance, regular prayer in the home, and religious education in the home.

Moving forward, this means Saint Rose religious education will be offered through a work at home program that is family based to empower you to provide for your family's religious formation.

To assist you, we will offer parent training. New families will be taught how to teach the faith in their home and returning families will be offered the opportunity to refresh their knowledge in the at home process. For families with children in grades two and eight, this extra training and support will be vital as you prepare your child to receive his or her sacraments. Completed school work will continue to be emailed to me. You will receive additional support from your children's grade level catechist. The catechist and I will act as resources for you to answer school related questions about lesson content.

In addition to working at home to teach your child, the Family, Faith Formation days will also provide you with the opportunity to grow in your own faith as a parent. These formation days are a vital part of faith formation for yourself and for your family. Attendance for these dates is required.

Along with this letter you will receive a link to register for religious education and our calendar for the year. The calendar is also on our parish website at www.saintroseonline.org For families with children in grade two and eight please note all important calendar dates regarding activities related to First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation, and note the date for each of these sacraments as well.

To close this letter, we include some relevant quotes that illustrate why we support you in your role in actively forming your family's faith.

GRATISSIMAM SANE - Letter to families, Pope John Paul II

“Parents are the first and most important educators of their own children, and they also possess a fundamental competence in this area: they are educators because they are parents.”

FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO - On the role of the Christian family in the modern world, Pope John Paul II

“The task of giving education is rooted in the primary vocation of married couples... As the Second Vatican Council recalled, “since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for their failure in it. For it devolves on parents to create a family atmosphere so animated with love and reverence for God and others that a well-rounded personal and social development will be fostered among the children. Hence, the family is the first school of those social virtues which every society needs.”^[99]. The right and duty of parents to give education is essential, since it is connected with the transmission of human life; it is original and primary with regard to the educational role of others, on account of the uniqueness of the loving relationship between parents and children; and it is irreplaceable and inalienable, and therefore incapable of being entirely delegated to others or usurped by others.”

We look forward to helping you and supporting you as a parish staff as we all strive to become intentional disciples of Christ living a stewardship way of life. Please feel free to reach out to the Saint Rose Parish Leadership team or me with any questions.

God Bless You!

Patty Russo and our Saint Rose Parish Leadership Team

Father George Wenzinger Father David Kidd David Ordorica Tom Hagerty

Robert Hohler Charlotte Mariasy